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Special Articles This Month

South Australian News and Notes
Dried Fruits Publicity
Menace of Apricot Gummosis
Goulburn Valley News and Notes
Tasmanian News and Notes
Vegetable Culture
Queensland News and Notes
Marketing Apples and Pears
Seasonable Orchard Work
West Australian Reports

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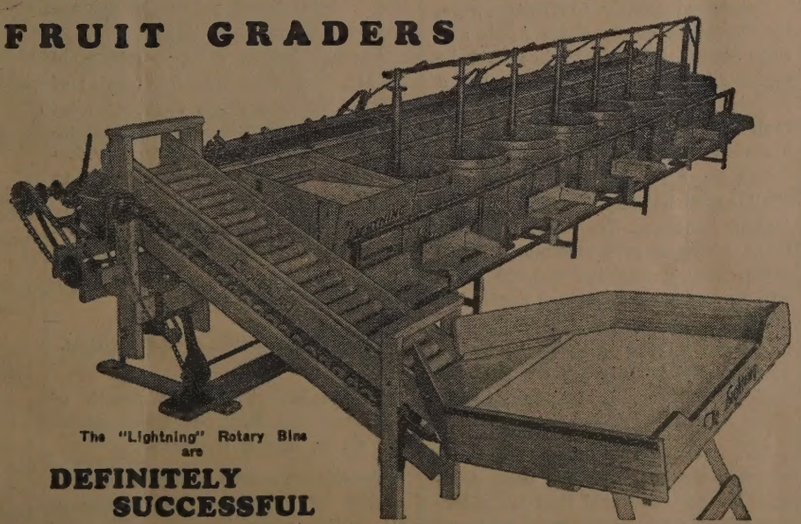

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West Australian News and Notes

Perth (25/3/45). (By Our Correspondent.)

Plums, Peaches and Nectarines have reached the end of the season, Quinces and Passionfruit are in fair supply, Grapes are plentiful, as are Oranges; Lemons and Pears are short, the latter being rationed at the Perth markets, and Apples are abundant, Jonathans being keenly sought by buyers.

Tomatoes are being heavily supplied, but most are green, and growers are being advised to hold them on the vines for a few more days in order that they may properly ripen.

The heavy rains in the Carnarvon district have interfered with deliveries of Bananas, which normally are taken south to Geraldton by road.

Both central Apple packing houses at Bridgetown recently commenced operations, but difficulty is being experienced in securing packers and shed hands. The dehydration plant in this town also got under way recently, but is as yet only operating with a limited staff. Cleos are being handled here at present.

At a recent meeting of the Bridgetown Fruitgrowers' Association, the question as to conditions under which fruit would be delivered to the dehydration plant was brought up, and a reply received to the effect that a bushel would be recognised as 42 lb. of fruit, and credit given for weight only. On receipt of a grower's consignment, ten cases or more would be taken from the lot and weighed, an average being thus based. Particulars of grades would be taken from the sheet supplied by the assessing officer. Growers considering that their rejections were too heavy, could appeal to the inspector.

Fruitgrowers are still complaining at the prices paid for Apples for dehydration, and were recently addressed by Mr. George Parke, chairman of the State Apple and Pear Board, who said that he would like them to compare the 3/9 paid for 42 lb. with the pre-war Huon Valley price of 15/- per ton. Mr. Parke mentioned that more dried Apples were sold locally last season in six weeks than were sold throughout the Commonwealth in 12 months pre-war.

Arrangements have been made with the Department of Agriculture to conduct fruit packing classes at the Manjimup Fruit Growers' Co-op. Ltd., early in the New Year.

Complaints are rife regarding the condition of the fruit cases now being supplied to growers. Many have twisted, broken or split sides, and it is pointed out that it is impossible to pack fruit into the cases as they are received, and additional timber should be supplied to recondition some of the cases now on growers' hands. Answering a recent complaint, the Superintendent of the Apple and Pear Board Mr. R. M. Carter said that the utmost difficulty had been experienced in arranging for delivery of 900,000 cases for Apples and Pears, and no alternative was possible but to accept green timber. Three million cases, of all kinds, had to be made in the State to meet demands. Eastern States buyers had, despite his Board's strong protest, purchased 100,000 redwood cases from West Australian mills.

Speaking recently to fruitgrowers, the Chairman of the State Apple and Pear Board (Mr. G. Parke) said he regretted that he could not make a promise to get them more money for their fruit, although he admitted that a review of prices was long overdue.

"This year," said Mr. Parke, "we shall again be shipping fruit to the United Kingdom. The total shipment from this State may amount to 75,000 cases, and in addition 200,000 cases will be sent to the Eastern States."

All Apple growers would have to be placed on the same basis, he remarked, and if they are not satisfied with measurements, must take immediate steps to seek remeasurement.

Mr. Parke sympathised with those growers whose crops had been damaged by hail and said that he understood that some 75,000 were damaged in Bridgetown alone. But damaged fruit could not be taken by the Board, as this would only mean that good fruit would go to waste.

Mr. Carter, Superintendent of the Board, said that they hoped to handle 850,000 cases this season. Cement coated nails must be used for export cases, and every effort made to see that nothing was lacking in quality output, as every case would be labelled as the product of Western Australia.

"We are trying," said Mr. Carter, "to get over the difficulty of handling the 2¼ in. Dunns, which even the dehydration plants do not want."

Mr. B. C. Chambers, one of the most successful of local fruitgrowers, speaking on behalf of the R.S.L. Land Committee, recently submitted an interesting plan for the marketing of fruit and vegetables to the committee inquiring into this matter.

"Under my plan," said Mr. Chambers, "the present method of auctioneering fruit and vegetables would be abolished and a system of private treaty introduced, whereby lines would be sold through the agent who appraises them. This would mean a better return to the grower, and the consumer would not suffer. The system would mean the fixing of a minimum as well as a maximum price."

Mr. Chambers also recommended a Statutory Orderly Marketing Board, where producer and consumer would have equal and majority representation. This would police the scheme and act as a check upon the agent.

Another feature strongly advocated by Mr. Chambers was that copies of agents' account sales, showing what the consumer realised on a particular line, should be simultaneously forwarded with all purchased goods to every retailer.

All transport of perishables to market, considered Mr. Chambers, should be by road only.

Report from Dept. of Agriculture.

In his report for the month of February the Supt. of Horticulture, Mr. H. R. Powell writes:—

Considerable crop losses have been caused by cockatoos and parrots in all fruitgrowing districts. The dry growing conditions have affected Yates to a considerable degree.

Weather conditions in the citrus areas have also been dry and this also applies to the Swan Valley, where the majority of the vineyards are situated.

Up to the present, although growth and fruit development has been retarded, no significant decrease in the crop estimates can be expected.

The quality of the Currant crop this year is expected to be good, although the total crop will be less than last year's.

The incidence of disease and pests has not been severe during the month, although fruit fly infestation in the hills districts adjacent to the metropolitan area is greater than has been the case for several years.

INTERNAL PRESSURE TEST FOR FOOD CANS.

PEA VINERY BY-PRODUCTS.

Some thousands of acres of Peas will be cut and thrashed by mechanised equipment this season, and each acre of Peas, when cut and thrashed, will yield about three tons of vines. These vines are of exceptionally high food value, and are suitable for all types of stock—milking cattle, heifers, breeding ewes, fattening lambs, horses, and even as green fodder for pigs and poultry. In the U.S.A., where the Pea canning industry has been in operation for many years, the high feeding value of the vines is well recognised.

The food value of the material is comparable to that of Lucerne, the protein content of the dry matter averaging about 12 per cent. as against 15 per cent. in average Lucerne. Oaten or wheaten chaff only contains about 6 per cent. American experiments have shown that about 3 lb. of the Pea vine, green fodder, or silage, are equal in feed value to 1 lb. of Lucerne hay.

THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE.

Discussing post-war reconstruction, a speaker on the A.B.C. programme for listening groups said that in relation to machinery, farmers of the world were facing conditions similar to 150 years ago. Agriculture was becoming mechanised. Was it now a choice between the home or collective farm? A compromise was possible, keeping the farm or orchard area as a unit but only by the pooling of machinery and operating in co-operative groups.

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

THE WAR.

Events have moved rapidly in the last few weeks. The armies of the Allies are moving into the heart of Germany and there can now be no doubt but that the end of the European war is in sight. This will be a time for restrained rejoicing, for the problems of settling re-establishing war-torn Europe will be staggering. Then again, we realise that the Japanese foes have yet to be defeated.

The needs of the times are for continued activity in everything that will assist the war effort—full production, support to the War Loans, the Red Cross, Comforts Fund and every agency which is working for our national endeavours.

BLACK MARKETS.

Every decent citizen will applaud the drive being made to stamp out black-marketing and pillaging and associated evils which are interfering directly or indirectly with Australia's war effort. But applause is not enough.

Black marketing undermines the moral fibre of the community and the economic stability of the nation. It is deliberate defiance of the law in a time of national emergency, when lawful authority should be obeyed without question. It has a dangerous inflationary tendency, and it defrauds the revenue, since the person dishonest enough to make illicit profits is unlikely to pay tax on those profits.

The great majority of home-front Australians, by their hard work, their self-denial, their ready acceptance of heavy taxation, and their loyal support of war loans, do all in their power to further the national effort.

Black marketing will be reduced considerably by the Government's action. But this is an evil which can be wholly eliminated only if the public co-operates fully.

Everyone has an obligation to observe to the letter the regulations governing the sale of rationed goods and goods in short supply. Every transaction on the black market helps to keep the evil going.

APPLE AND PEAR ACQUISITION.

Aspects of the Legal Case Now Before the Court.

The N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association has been taking an active interest in all that is happening in the legal case, which it is expected will shortly be resumed before the High Court. The Secretary of the Association, Mr. B. Rasdall, has circulated to members copies of letters. which have been received in response to representations concerning:—

(a) Claims for Compensation: From W. J. Scully (Minister for Commerce), January 25, 1945.

"Dear Mr. Rasdall,

With further reference to your letter of January 12, I desire to inform you that consideration of claims by Apple and Pear growers for additional compensation has been deferred by the Commonwealth pending the outcome of the case now before the High Court, arising from an action instituted by certain growers in Victoria prior to the last amendment to the National Security (Apple and Pear Acquisition) Regulations. It is not possible to make any variation of this arrangement in respect of growers in your State, who were informed of the position some time ago by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board.

The action referred to was commenced at the October sittings of the High Court, but an adjournment was granted at the request of the claimants to enable further evidence to be secured.

I am not in a position to say when the hearing will be resumed, but when the action is determined this matter will have my further attention."

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From R. N. Henderson and Taylor (solicitors), March 5, 1945.

"Dear Mr. Rasdall,

Re Claims for Compensation under the (Apple and Pear Acquisition) Regulations.

In reply to your letter of January 12, 1945, we have to advise as follows:—

There is no provision under the regulations which requires a grower to renew his claim each year, and any claim submitted within the period specified in the regulations remains valid. There is, however, a new provision (Clause 17 AA) requiring any person dissatisfied with the amount of any compensation determined by the Minister to apply within one month of being notified of the determination to a District Court or other Court specified by the regulation, for a declaration as to the amount of compensation to which he is entitled. The application to the Court can only be made after the Minister has made a determination and notified the applicant thereof.

While in Melbourne, the writer interviewed the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's representative there with reference to the litigation referred to by the Minister in his reply to your growers' representations as to payment of compensation. The case referred to is the case of Lawford and Zerbe v. The Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board and the Commonwealth. This case is at present part heard before a single Judge of the High Court and the hearing is to be resumed this month. After the single Judge has determined the facts it will go on appeal to the Full Court. This case has been selected by the Commonwealth for the purpose of testing the decision in Tonking's case, and if possible setting aside that case and establishing new principles in determining the amount of compensation payable to applicants, e.g., it is the Commonwealth's aim to upset the principle that a grower is entitled to be paid the amount actually realised on the sale of his fruit in the markets less selling and other costs and to establish the principle that a feature to be taken into consideration in arriving at what is fair compensation is the amount the fruit might have realised if no acquisition scheme had been in operation. The Commonwealth will definitely make no further payment to growers on account of compensation beyond the actual advances already made, until the Full High Court has delivered judgment in the case of Lawford and Zerbe."

ORGANISING THE APPLE AND PEAR INDUSTRY.

Plan Now, says H. V. Smith.

Interesting Items from Batlow, N.S.W.

Mr. H. V. Smith, general manager of the Batlow Packing House Co-op. Ltd., Batlow, N.S.W., who is widely esteemed for his ability and sound judgment, writes as follows under date March 26, 1945:—

The Batlow district is still suffering under the worst drought in history. With a normal rainfall of 54 inches per annum, the total rain last year amounted to 28 inches, which was sufficient to keep the trees in good heart. It was expected, however, that the drought would break this year, but no general rain has fallen, the total since the beginning of the year being 385 points.

Under the circumstances, the fruit has sized up remarkably well, and is harvesting very closely in accordance with the estimates obtained at the end of November last. These estimates for fruit to be handled by this Society, showed a total of approximately 100,000 bushels of Pears and 80,000 bushels of Apples. This compares with the previous year—100,000 bushels of Pears and 250,000 bushels of Apples. This year, therefore, our Apple crop is about 30 per cent. of normal.

Organising the Industry.

The visit of the British Farmers' Delegation has stimulated interest in the **necessity to organise an Australian body of fruitgrowers,** and in this regard it is strongly felt that Apple and Pear growers should take the lead and form an Australian association capable of representing all States in regard to the growing side of the industry.

Orchard Practise.

Orchard practise over the war years has tended towards more casual pruning methods owing to shortage of labour, and also for the same reason there has been a general neglect of maintenance in regard to fences, orchard buildings, etc There has been a tendency to greater mechanisation and more growers are now using tractors. Also the larger type of imported spray unit, operated by a power take-off from the tractor, is coming into favour.

A nursery has come into existence, producing Apples planted from seedlings. It is safe to say that no further plantings will be made from Northern Spy stock by the majority of our growers. Cultivation varies considerably between growers, there being two or three advocates of no cultivation of any kind whatever. The no cultivation theory has worked out reasonably well, although there is evidence that a percentage of the trees require fertilizer applications. However, this also applies in many of the cultivated orchards. In general, the orchards which appear the healthiest are those where comparatively heavy green crops have been ploughed in each spring, and where a very moderate amount of cultivation has been practised. It has never been common practice in this district to apply any fertilizer whatever, but it is obvious that the time has arrived in the older orchards for more or less substantial applications of mixed fertilizers, both organic and inorganic.

With regard to the post-war policy of the industry, and with reference to the remarks previously made about an Australian body, **the time has arrived for growers to get together and give serious consideration to future problems.**

NEW SOUTH WALES.

"One of the worst pome fruit seasons for years" is the description by the N.S.W. Director of Marketing (Dr. R. J. Hynes) of the 1945 Apple and Pear season.

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Many enlightened growers are realizing the advantages of using Neptune Sprays
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Seasonable Orchard Work

Menace of Apricot Gummosis

RESEARCH URGED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE SEVERE ECONOMIC LOSSES caused through Apricot Gummosis were dealt with in an address before a fruitgrowers' Conference recently in South Australia by Mr. B. Boehm, of Light's Pass. After dealing with many phases of the disease the speaker stated that in the Barossa district alone the production of Apricots was around 558 tons, which, at an average value of £130 per ton, gave a total value of £72,540; yet this same district, with its present plantings **but without the disease** would produce 1,116 tons having a total value of £145,080. "We would produce here in this district alone," continued Mr. Boehm, "more Apricots than all the rest of South Australia put together. . . I will now quote what others say about the gummosis disease."

Hogg: "There is a disease to which Moorpark is liable, and which is sometimes attended with very serious consequences. It shows itself first in the leaves, which all of a sudden flag and wither away, and the branch which bears them dies. Frequently a whole limb or the whole of one side of a tree will exhibit this appearance in the space of a few hours. This effect arises, not as some say, from the stock on which it is worked, or the soil on which it is planted, for it is met with on every description of stock, and in all kinds of soil. It is not the result of a languid circulation, for trees in the full vigour of growth are as subject to it as those which are aged, and going to decay, but it is because of the naturally delicate constitution of this variety."

Wright: "Moorpark, one of the best, but very liable to gum. Excessive use of stable and farmyard manure in gardens has made many victims to gum, branches dying off suddenly, giving Apricot trees a rueful appearance. Though the Apricot is subject to few diseases, it suffers more from that termed "branch dying" than do most fruit trees. They lose branches suddenly, often when laden with fruit, leaders collapse in young trees, main branches perish here and there in trees just coming in to profit, while those having covered their allotted space lose one branch after another, till the trees are spoiled. These symptoms afford evidence of gum disease, closing the channels of the wood, and then preventing the nourishment of the branch above the point of infestation; in fact, 99 per cent. of the cases of "branch dying" are due to gum disease, caused by the fungus Coryneum Beijerincki.

The cultural inducements to gumming are planting in over-rich soil, production of gross wood, and severe cutting. Gum disease (gummosis, gum-flux) is distinguishable for an exudation of thick gum clinging to the branches. It is a highly contagious disease, and can easily be produced by inserting a little of the sticky substance under the bark of the trees, as found by Dr. Beijerinck, provided it contains spores of a fungus Coryneum Beijerincki. The spores do not gain access to trees with a dense cuticle without a crack, wound, or abrasion.

The first visible sign of attack in a young shoot is the appearance of a red-coloured speck. The bark first dies, then the wood, The exudation appears dependent upon the formation of cambium and starch granules, for when the growth becomes somewhat firm, the "tears" of gum are freely exuded. If the growth be stunted, spray with a solution of sulphate of iron at the rate of a quarter of an ounce to 1 gall. of water. Wild Cherries, Bullaces, Sloebushes, and above all the common Laurel, should not have places near stone-fruit trees."

McAlpine, after describing the disease says:—"If the limbs which have lost their leaves are promptly shortened back, and the bark split with a sharp knife down to the trunk, the gum flow may be almost entirely prevented, the degree of success depending largely upon the promptitude with which this is done after the first danger signal—the fall of the leaves. The primary object of the treatment is to prevent the deposit of gum in the vessels, which, if extensive, is followed by the disorganization of cell walls and formation of gum pockets, conditions always serious and generally fatal to the branch or even the whole tree.

Even when the gum flow is extensive, relief may often be afforded by the adoption of these measures. In several cases under observation trees subjected to no special treatment died outright in about two years, while very numerous cases have been successfully treated in the manner indicated."

Hendickson says: "This is a bacterial disease, characterized by cankers which usually produce gum abundantly on the trunk and branches. The cankers live from year to year, killing the branches they girdle and forming a source of infection from which the disease spreads. Foliage on diseased branches is yellowish in colour, and later turns brown and dies when the branch is girdled.

The best known methods of control consist in removing the badly-diseased limbs, and scarifying and disinfecting the small cankers with a mixture of mercuric cyanide and mercuric chloride, 1 part each to 500 parts of water. This should be done in the fall, before the first rains, and should be followed by a thorough inspection in the spring to find any cankers overlooked the previous autumn."

Samuel: In a report published on April 15, 1933, in the "Journal of Agriculture," says: "From what I have seen in the field and from the results of the cultural work, I feel convinced that Gummosis or 'die-back' of Apricots, as it occurs in the lower northern fruit districts, is definitely due to a fungus, which gains entrance to the limbs through wounds and which invades the woody tissues of the branches at a rapid rate, probably advancing several feet, up and down, a limb in a few months. I consider that it should not be a very difficult disease to get rid of if the right methods are adopted."

In conclusion Mr. Boehm said: "In view of the seriousness of the situation, I ask, nay demand, an intensification of research before the disease octopus-like stretches forth its tentacles and engulfs the industry. I refuse to subscribe to the theory that no cure will be found, nor that it cannot be found quickly, but nothing short of an officer's (or more) whole time being devoted to it will suffice."

FRUIT AND PRODUCE EXCHANGE
TURBOT STREET, BRISBANE.
Satisfaction Assured.

M. LLOYD
43
BRISBANE

Stencils on Application.

VICTORIA.

SEASONAL HORTICULTURAL CONDITIONS FOR MARCH, 1945.

The harvesting of Jonathan Apples was continued during the month. Although the crop was light, excellent growing conditions resulted in a considerable quantity of large-sized fruit. As it is expected that large fruit may not store well, it should not be held in cool storage for long periods. Most cool stores in the Apple and Pear-growing districts are rapidly being filled to capacity, largely as a result of the heavy Pear crop, reports the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

Codling moth activity in Apples and Pears has been variable throughout the State. In some districts extensive losses have occurred, while in others, mainly the cooler hill districts, comparatively little damage has resulted. All district reports indicate that bryobia mite has been very prevalent, and growers should not neglect winter spraying with red oil or lime sulphur for the control of this pest. Instances have occurred of serious defoliation of Peach and Plum trees due to Peach and Plum rust — a fungous disease. For the control of this, sprays of dry mix lime sulphur should be applied early in the season.

Blyth's "BLUE BELL" Quality Sprays

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CODLIN MOTH CONTROL

By Arthur D. Borden, University of California

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Harvesting of Walnuts has commenced in the North East, where satisfactory crops are expected. Almonds were light in the North East, but in districts along the Murray Valley some very good crops have been obtained.

Harvesting of Golden Queen Peaches in the Goulburn Valley was completed. This variety produced a large proportion of small sized fruit. Harvesting of the Pullar's Cling variety was almost completed. The pre-harvest drop was heavy in this variety.

Some growers have commenced autumn ploughing, but in most non-irrigated districts the ground is too hard for this operation. There is a shortage of Tick Beans and Dun Peas for green manuring, but some New Zealand Blue Lupins are still available. Many orchardists are finding it difficult to secure sufficient supplies of horse-feed.

Both Navel and Valencia Oranges are growing satisfactorily. It is noticeable in both the Mildura and Swan Hill districts that the best crops are on the northerly sides of the trees, where they were sheltered from the sand blasts which occurred during the Spring. Irrigation was in progress in citrus districts and growers were drilling in green crops. Fumigation for Red Scale control was being carried out.

Harvesting of the dried fruits crop was completed in the Mildura area, while some Walthams and Gordos were being picked for drying in the Swan Hill district. The crop is one of the lightest on record, but the drying season has been satisfactory and fruit will be of good quality. Because of the damage suffered by vines with wind and dust storms, growers are expected to find difficulty in pruning. The bunch thinning of Gordos and Walthams has resulted in considerably improved quality. Because of the dry conditions, a rise of salt is in evidence throughout the Mildura settlement, and in many cases has caused an early defoliation of vines.

Vegetables.

The harvesting of Tomato crops in the Goulburn Valley is almost completed. Both acreage and production of this crop were considerably less than last season.

Lifting of Red Beet crops is not yet finished in East Gippsland. November Carrot sowings are almost ready for lifting and January sowings are growing rapidly. Harvesting of Bean seed is proceeding and quality is good.

Rutherglen bug and aphis have damaged Carrot seed crops in northern Victoria.

Cover Crops in N.S.W.

Owing to war-time conditions, there is a shortage of both fertilisers and cover crop seeds, which may demand some variation from practises that might otherwise be desirable.

As these conditions exist and appear likely to continue for some appreciable period, the following green cropping practises are recommended by Mr. C. G. Savage, Chief, Division of Horticulture, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric.

Firstly, it is necessary to recognise that organic matter is essential to the maintenance of a fertile soil.

It is the material in which soil bacteria work and assist in converting unavailable nutrients to a greater degree of availability for trees use.

In considering cover crops there are three general conditions which exist and have to be met. These are—

1. Irrigated conditions.
2. Dependable rainfull in non-irrigated areas.
3. Irregular rainfall conditions.

These differing conditions naturally require distinct recommendation for each, and if unexpected conditions develop some modification of recommendations will be needed.

Crop varieties recommended for irrigated conditions are types of Clovers which do well in the various localities—principally Burr, Barrell and Mid-Season Subterranean, Grey Field Peas, Tick Beans,, Vetches or Tares. **They should be planted not later than up to the middle of March with 1 cwt. superphosphate per acre.**

The variety of legume, if not previously grown, or if nodulation on the roots has been poor, should be inoculated with a suitable culture obtainable from the Department of Agriculture.

During the irrigation season light waterings will be needed to ensure germination, and satisfactory development before the advent of low temperatures.

The crops should be incorporated during the flowering stage—usually by September.

In districts of satisfactory rainfall during Autumn and Winter the encouragement or planting of Burr or Subterranean Clover, Grey Field Peas or Vetches, and if ground is light sandy loam New Zealand Blue Lupin are suitable varieties.

Sowing from early to late March is advisable with 1 cwt. of superphosphate per acre.

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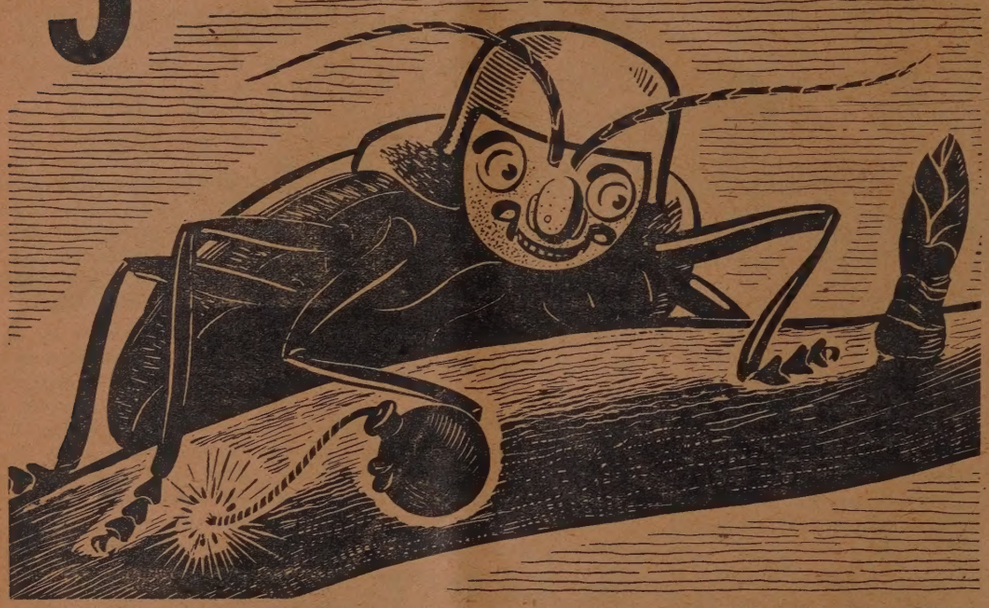

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The crops should be incorporated during early Spring to ensure that soil moisture which subsequently will be needed by the trees, is not seriously depleted by the growth of cover crops.

In areas of irregular rainfall it is usually uneconomic to purchase expensive seed in speculating on the production of a worth-while crop. Inexpensive seed of crops like Burr Clover (so-called Native Trefoil) should be encouraged by application of 1 cwt. of superphosphate per acre, and even weeds may have to be relied on.

The incorporation of material of this kind must not be longer delayed than when the plants are in a succulent stage for their decomposition, as the retention of as much soil moisture is necessary.

Where trees are large, permitting of only a small proportion of the soil growing a crop, application of from 3-5 tons of animal manure is preferable to sowing cover crops.

Animal manure applied to soils, whose physical condition due to tillage over many years is poor, is of considerable assistance in ensuring better growth of cover crops. Application should be made just prior to sowing the crop.

Climatic conditions often favour the growth of one type of plant more than others. It is a good practice, therefore, to sow mixed varieties.

Regarding the incorporation of the crop, evidence is increasing that trashing down the crop with disc implements which results in much debris remaining on and in the soil surface is more beneficial than burial of the crop.

STRAWBERRIES.

Recommended Varieties.

For home gardeners in N.S.W. the recommended varieties are Cresweli's Seedling and Fendalcino. As Fendalcino is not self-pollinated it needs varieties as Port Macquarie, Rhodes' Special or Mason's Immense for cross pollination.

One row of the pollinating varieties should be planted to three rows of Fendalcino.

Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

GOOD CANNING SEASON — CODLING MOTH IN PEARS AND ORIENTAL PEACH MOTH DAMAGE — VALUABLE EXPERIMENTS WITH D.D.T — EFFECTIVE RATIONING OF WATER.

ANOTHER FRUIT CROP in the Goulburn Valley has been successfully harvested under drought and wartime conditions, with less difficulty than previous seasons. More manpower was available, with a better type of employee, many coming from farms in the drought-stricken areas.

The same applied to the canneries where sufficient women labour was available, many of the girls coming from good country homes who have done an excellent job, especially at the Ardmona cannery, where the processing of the crop went with a swing right through the season.

The same can be said of the Shepparton factory, where all their seasonal women workers were well cared for in the splendid hostel of "Canberra House," under the supervision of Y.W.C.A., who performed a splendid piece of service and merited much praise.

At Ardmona cannery the girls had excellent accommodation in the cannery's own hostel, under the supervision of a matron and sub-matron, while the social club provided recreation and dancing in the public hall whenever time off duty permitted.

The processing of the Pullar Cling Peach crops is still in full operation, but the work will finish much earlier this year owing to the better supply of labour.

The Williams Pear crop in the Valley had one of the worst infestations of codling moth known. The dry hot droughty conditions seemed to make the spray ineffective after it had been on the trees a few days, and growers are watching very carefully the experiments being carried out with D.D.T., the new wartime disinfectant which is believed will eventually displace arsenate of lead.

The tonnage of Pears to the canneries was less than last year, owing to the heavy dropping and codling infestation, although excessively large quantities of Pears were sent to Sydney early in the season, which eventually lead to a temporary glut.

On one particular day in February, 35 trucks of Pears were despatched from Mooroopna railway station to metropolitan canneries, and interstate markets. This was an all-time record.

The Peach crop turned out satisfactorily. The fruit was very clean and free from rust, although there was a 10 to 15 per cent. infestation of Oriental Peach Moth. Here again great hopes are entertained of a cure being found with D.D.T.

Mr. G. Helson, of Canberra, who recently carried out a five-years' research work in the Goulburn Valley Peach orchards on behalf of the Commonwealth Branch of Scientific Research returned to Ardmona in January and carried out temporary trials on Peach orchards with D.D.T., which, I understand, are to be followed up. No official details are yet available, but results are believed to be most satisfactory.

The irrigation water supplies which caused considerable anxiety in the early part of the season, turned out far more satisfactorily under the severe drought conditions than was anticipated by most growers.

This was largely due to the judicious manner in which the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission rationed the water early in the season, and, as time went on, it was found that every grower was supplied with his full water right and, in addition, 7½ per cent. excess water was also supplied. This saved the situation for the late Peach crop. Severe drought conditions still continue, and the orchards at present are very dry and are commencing to lose their leaves much earlier than usual.

The writer just recently paid a visit to the Cobram Irrigation Area, where great progress has been made in the last three years. Young Peach orchards are springing up in all directions, while lucerne, maize and fodder crops are growing in abundance under irrigation on these fertile lands and is like a garden of Eden to the drought stricken areas just adjacent to the irrigation district, where not a blade of grass exists. In one field that was passed there was a fifty acre block of Pumpkins and Marrows just ready for harvesting and they were bearing a wonderful crop.

The citrus orchards in this district are looking particularly well and carrying good crops, with the exception of some Lemon trees, which were badly damaged in the tops from last winter's severe frosts.

The large Peach orchard of Messrs. Turnbull Bros. and Co., Young, is a wonderful sight. The young trees have done marvellously well and are now 8 to 10 ft. high and will soon be in full production.

These growers also have a block of 20 acres of young Lemon trees on the sand hill near the Murray River, irrigated by a pumping plant direct from the river.

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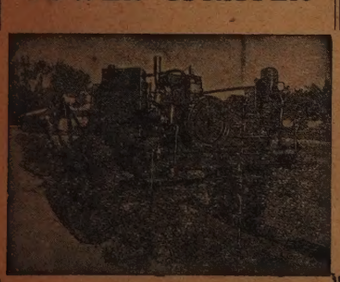

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Tasmanian News and Notes

APPLE EXPORT — CODLING MOTH PREVALENT — DRYING, CANNING AND JUICE — POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION — CURRENT EVENTS.

(By Our Correspondent.)

THE CROPS in the northern areas have so far proved rather disappointing and moth has been very prevalent. Most varieties of Pears carried good crops, but were not called up. W.B.C. were particularly heavy, but only a small percentage were utilised as the factories were only canning a small quantity and the shop trade in Tasmania is small. Growers are naturally disappointed as even if the whole crop is paid for at acquisition prices it won't be equal to canning factory price. The Spreyton district was hit badly by hail and the whole crop is practically only fit for factory use.

On the East Tamar there are some fine crops of Delicious and Democrats.

The Lilydale district had some nice crops of Pears, but the Apples were patchy. This area is largely agricultural and considerable quantities of Peas and Tick Beans are grown there.

In the southern districts

the weather has been windy and cold for the time of year and although there have been plenty of light showers, the ground is dry and the fruit not coming up to expectations. Moth has not been very bad but red spider became apparent during March. Canary fly has not been troublesome.

Considerable quantities of Apples have been sent to the mainland markets to date, beginning with Worcester Pearmain, followed by C.O.P., Jon. and Cleo. C.O.P. and Jons. have not attained their usual size owing to unfavourable weather conditions and lack of fertilizer. Cleos. have done better, dry weather seems to suit them. Black spot is prevalent on Cleos. and Sturmers, and in some orchards it is very bad on almost all varieties.

It is expected that there will be two

large oversea shipments,

one in March taking Jons. and Cleos. 2¼-2½ inch. only, and the other in April taking Cleos., S.P.M. and Sturmers, with probably some G. Smiths, but this variety is light this season.

Speaking generally Tasmania's crop is below normal. There is a general feeling that Tasmania's crop is not being marketed as well as it might be and the Minister for Agriculture has taken the matter up with the Federal Minister for Commerce, I understand. The Sydney retailers complain of the system of branding which prevents them from getting the lines they want and compels them to accept mixed lots.

During the month the

Indian trade delegation

visited Tasmania, the object apparently is to foster reciprocal trade after the war; they appear to be practical realists and made it clear that trade must be reciprocal. India apparently does not intend to give us tariff concessions, and unless Australia is willing to do the same, which is a very reasonable attitude. There is a good prospective outlet for our primary produce out East if we can supply at attractive prices.

Drying factories for Apples started late in March and **canning and juice factories** also began operations at the same time. Supplies are not coming forward very fast, and I think will be difficult to maintain late in the season. The labour position is still very acute and box material very scarce and much of it poor quality.

The fertilizer position has not improved to any appreciable extent yet, but it is hoped potassic fertilizers will be made available in increased quantities in time for early application this year, potash difficiency is very marked in some orchards.

We are hoping that the insecticide, D.D.T., will be applicable to orchard pests, as if it can be used safely on vegetation it will simplify the spraying programme; red spider causes serious loss every year in spite of spraying with winter oil and summer oil; in many ways it is more serious than moth under Southern Tasmanian conditions as it devitalises the tree.

With so many different pests each requiring different treatment it is hard to devise a spraying programme that is efficient and not too costly.

Post-war reconstruction

of the fruit industry is a matter of general interest among growers here, some appear to favour straightout Government control permanently with a guaranteed price and apparently they don't realise that that would mean restriction of production to what could be absorbed at the price as there is no means of compelling people to purchase the surplus. Others consider that if the Government can enter into favourable trade agreements with other countries and see that transport is available, private enterprise can do the rest.

Cheaper distribution would increase the home demand; at present, as before the war, the margin between what the producer received and what the consumer paid was and is too great. Central control appears to increase costs rather than decrease them.

At the present time there is a keen demand for farms and orchards and many have changed ownership in recent months. The demand is likely to increase as returned servicemen require homes. Tasmania is suited to closer settlement owing to more regular rainfall favouring intense cultivation.

The housing problem is very acute, both in town and country, and apparently no effective effort is being made to overcome it. The Government house building programme only effects one small section of the community and leaves those who are able, financially, and willing to build their own, still homeless, this hits the country areas hard.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

Talk to Apple and Pear Growers of Sth. Aust.

CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING — ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.

(By H. J. Gleeson.)

Perhaps an outline of the co-operative marketing movement, its origin and development, may be of interest to Apple and Pear growers. At the outset, I want to express my wholehearted support for this method of marketing of primary producers' goods, which is universally accepted and proved.

The co-operative movement started in England over a century ago, when a handful of small business men discovered that they could buy tea at more advantageous prices by grouping their requirements than by buying individually. So it was gradually evolved as a means of protection against unscrupulous traders and agents, who, in former years, exploited producers and consumers to an alarming degree. I am very confident your desire to strengthen and develop this method of marketing is correct, and is essential for post-war conditions, which now appear just around the corner.

It would be futile to try and convince the meeting of the great value of co-operation without supporting facts and figures, and for this purpose I have obtained information from the Research Officer, Mr. Brideson, of the Adelaide Public Library, and have already arranged for this service to be available to growers on any subject on which they may desire to improve their knowledge. The service is free, and if the required details are not available in Adelaide they are procured from other States, or even overseas. The latest methods of producing, pest control, fertilizing, packing, storing, marketing and freighting, are all to be had for the asking.

Co-operative associations, with good management, can save money in handling and selling crops produced by their members. Many of these organisations now have so standardised the quality of their products that they are able to employ their own registered trade mark, and this is of great value, because it guarantees consumers definite standards of quality. Some of the best known of these in America are "Land of Lakes" Butter, "Sowega" Melons, "Palmetto Asparagus" and "Sunkist" Oranges. It was estimated as long ago as 1924 that the name "Sunkist" was easily worth 6,000,000 dollars—meaning that each of the members of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange has an average asset of more than 545 dollars to add to the value of his business of Orange or Lemon growing, or an average asset of 30 dollars per acre to write into the value of his land. Examples closer home are "Farmers' Union" butter, "Sunraysia" dried fruits and "Red Comb" eggs. I consider the time is approaching for this Association to look for a suitable name that will have a publicity and marketing value.

Brand names have become a common language between brokers and customers, and unclassified commodities are much more difficult to sell and consequently bring lower prices in the average market. Besides establishing confidence between buyer and seller, standardisation with registered brand improves production methods and brings about the elimination of undesirable varieties and products of the orchard, vineyard, or vegetable garden. Growers can also see at a glance what their produce is fetching by looking for their registered name in the market columns of their newspapers when products are sold beyond local markets.

Co-operative organisations now number many thousands, operating throughout the world, and handling an extremely wide range of goods. In the U.S.A. during 76 years, from 1863 to 1939, over 26,000 farmers' co-operative associations were organised, and engaged in marketing grain, dry beans, rice, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, nuts, livestock, cotton and its products, poultry and eggs, wool and mohair, and other miscellaneous products. Other organisations were for purchasing dairy and poultry foods, fertilizer, seeds, petroleum, coal, farm machinery, and various other goods.

An appreciation of the marketing services performed by the organisation and a better knowledge of the principles and practices of co-operative marketing on the part of its membership is essential to successful co-operation. The maintenance of adequate contacts and relations with producers after they have joined the Association, from the standpoint of continued business operations, is more important than the mere act of getting the membership. And that is where I come into the picture, and I hope, as time goes on, to give each member individual attention and assistance when practicable.

In order that the co-operative Committee may make definite plans for carrying out policies as to financing, insurance, sales, freighting, and management, it must be provided with a relatively certain and stable volume of business—and this business must come from its membership. A co-operative association can not, or should not, go outside its membership and make a drive for business, as is the practice of commercial enterprises, as it is established by a group of producers for the express purpose of marketing the products of their own farms or gardens, and is not a profit-making institution in the same sense as the ordinary commercial corporation.

In this respect there is a fundamental difference between a co-operative association and a commercial enterprise. In the case of a co-operative, the members are not only members but are the persons who provide the products which enable the association to operate. The prosperity of the co-operative is the prosperity of its members, and any advantages which may be obtained in its business operations are passed on and become the advantages of its members. In the case of a commercial enterprise, the members or stockholders are usually not the persons with whom the corporation deals, and their only interest in the business is usually limited to that of dividends. In other words, the successful operation of a co-operative over a period of years is dependent upon members who loyally support their organisation **with an adequate supply of the products.**

The problem of procuring the full crop of the members is, from the standpoint of successful business operation alone, of tremendous importance. Any association whose members do not deliver their whole crops to their own organisation is seriously handicapped, as operating costs are higher than they otherwise would be, and because of the lack of stability in volume, the association is not able to develop the kind of a merchandising programme that will build up trade confidence for its products.

In further support of the co-operative effort, I refer you to the organisation known as the "British Medical Association," now Empire-wide. You can appreciate that if the intellectuals of this body, whose membership is calculated to be 95 per cent. in Sth. Aust., deem it essential to have a protective association, little room is left for argument.

In America there is a Federal Government Act known as the Agricultural Marketing Act, which is extremely comprehensive, in as much as it protects co-operative organisations and their members. For instance, if a co-operative member gets into financial difficulties or his dependants are unable to continue working his garden or farm, the co-operative organisations have a priority for acquiring his property to prevent alien interests undermining the organisation.

In discussing the adequacy or inadequacy of marketing services, we must deal particularly with the services offered by co-operative associations. There is a wide variation in the completeness and efficiency of these services, just as there is in the services of non-co-operative agencies. There is little question of the value of the services rendered by large, well-established associations and exchanges. Many small local associations, however, fail to realise their

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opportunities to improve marketing conditions.

In part, the general attitude of the producers towards their organisations has retarded the development of the co-operative marketing of fruits and vegetables. As long as the associations are judged altogether by the price they are able to obtain for the current crop, their existence, as a class, will be precarious, and the services they can render will be limited. In this regard, growers and their committees should think and plan for a five-year period, as post-war conditions will present numerous problems allowing scope for long-range development. The idea of crops arriving in rotation on export markets is both practical and possible, but will only be achieved by co-ordinated planning between the Apple or Orange growers' representatives of the respective countries concerned. In some cases, the financial stability of the associations is threatened and their reserves depleted through the anxiety of their directors to give the member a higher price than that paid by private dealers who handle the same commodity, also by non-payment of levies or subscriptions.

The members of co-operative associations, naturally, expect their organisations to obtain the full market price for their products, and to render market service economically. At the same time, a long-time view of production and marketing problems shows the necessity of establishing well-financed, efficient agencies which can handle the crops of succeeding years effectively. This means investment by the members of a part of their returns during the early years of the organisation. It also means expenditures by the associations to strengthen their marketing services, the value of which cannot be measured immediately in pounds, shillings and pence.

A long view of co-operation will consider the associations as service agencies of the growers, concerned with stabilised production, the production of suitable varieties, standardisation, distribution, and other factors which enter into the production and marketing of fruits and vegetables. The organisation and operation of associations on a crop-to-crop basis is a short-sighted policy, which handicaps the organisations and nullifies many of the services they might otherwise render.

In conclusion, I would like to submit the following questions for your consideration. These are directed to those opposed to co-operation.

1. How many co-operative associations are there in Sth. Aust.? (Over 60.)

2. Are they successful? (Emphatically, yes.)

3. What brought about their existence? (The same troubles that are now confronting you, plus the successful operation of similar organisations in other parts of the world.)

4. What alternative method of marketing can replace this system? (None, except Government control, of which you have already had a taste. It should be remembered that West Australia and Tasmania still have acquisition, and in these days of

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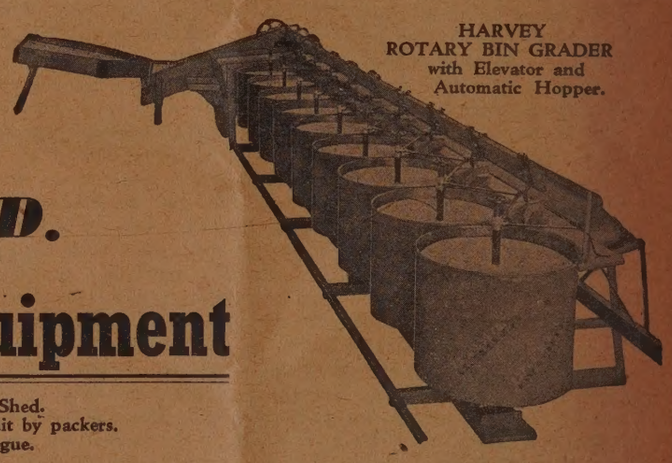

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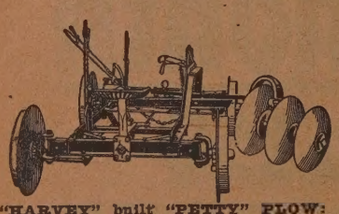
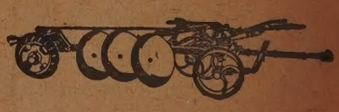


"HARVEY" built "PETTY" PLOW: Plows out strips which have not been plowed for years. Cuts through couch grass with the greatest of ease. Also plows up to the trees and in the centre. **DISC CULTIVATING GANG** can be attached in place of Disc Plow Gang.

"HARVEY" 3-FURROW TRACTOR POWER LIFT HB7 MOULDBOARD ORCHARD PLOW: A one-man job. Built in sizes from two to six furrows.

THE "HARVEY" LANCIA DISC PLOW is designed specially for the hardest kind of plowing. Low overhead clearance for low overhanging trees. Can be racked over for both plowing close up to and away from the trees. Equipped with the famous **"HARVEY"** Power Lift or Screw Lifts which are operated from the seat of the Tractor.



A HARVEY IMPLEMENT FOR EVERY NEED.

"HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM DISC CULTIVATOR: Cultivates right up to the butts of the trees or vines while the Tractor is driven right out in the middle of the row.
Proved to be an excellent machine for deeply cultivating heavy irrigation land.

"HARVEY" CITRUS DISC ATTACHMENT

WITH HOOD FITTED TO WORK WITH "HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM TRACTOR DISC CULTIVATOR.

Cuts out all hand working under citrus trees, and keeps the ground level. Specially designed to work right under the limbs up to the trunks of the Orange and Lemon trees. Will lift limbs loaded with fruit off the ground, cultivating to any predetermined depth, and then gently putting back in position the fruit-bearing limbs without injuring the fruit or fibrous roots. Cuts out all weeds without clogging.

FRUIT GROWERS, VIGNERONS and CITRUS GROWERS — OBTAIN YOUR REQUIREMENTS FROM:—

DANIEL HARVEY LIMITED

Orchard Implement Specialists
BOX HILL, MELBOURNE

INTERSTATE REPRESENTATIVES—

N.S.W.—Tractors & Machinery Pty. Ltd., 131 Palmer St., Sydney.
S.A.—Gilbert, Sharp & Bishop, Rundle St., East Adelaide.
W.A.—Paterson & Co. Ltd., St. Georges Terrace, Perth.
S.A.—Cole & Woodham, Box 12, Renmark.

Southern Tasmania—Wm. Crosby & Coy. Pty. Ltd., Collins St., Hobart.
Northern Tasmania—Max Geeves, 177 Brisbane St., Launceston.
Queensland' Buzacott (Queensland) Ltd., 443 Adelaide St., Brisbane.

increasing Government control it is a short step for several authorities to again exercise a mandate for Apples in this State should growers fail to support their own organisation.)

I refuse to believe that the Apple and Pear growers, as a class, are less intelligent than the Orange growers of this State. Let their happy marketing arrangements and achievements be the model for us to develop. Support the voluntary co-operative marketing scheme, pay your levies and plan for the crop ahead that will surely be a glut for many without a sound system of export procedure.

DEHYDRATION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Tribute of Appreciation to a Pioneer —the late Mr. Milne Gibson of S. Aust.

NOW THAT THE DEHYDRATION of fruit and vegetables has developed into such substantial proportions (as recorded in the last issue of the "Fruit World and Market Grower") it is fitting that a tribute of appreciation should be paid to one who many years ago did so much to pioneer this advance—the late Mr. Milne Gibson.

As far back as 1922, Mr. Gibson built his own dehydrator (not evaporator) on his property at McLaren Vale, S.A., prompted by the vagaries of the weather in trying to dry large crops of Muscatels and Prunes. From this small beginning, he visualised the vast possibilities for the expansion of such an industry in the River Murray areas.

Accordingly, in 1924, he set up a one unit plant on the Berri Experimental Orchard, and the following year moved to Lyrup, where he commenced with three units, ultimately increasing to nine, thus establishing the first commercial dehydration plant in Australia.

His inspiration was to create a standard product of the best possible sample to sell to the public in an attractive form. With these high ideals, he made two trips abroad and succeeded in establishing markets for his products in Canada and New York.

Not only did he produce the best quality Muscatels and Prunes, but he experimented in all types of vegetable and stone fruit drying, with marked success.

In 1932 he built his plant at Irymple, Victoria, and there continued to produce his high-grade fruit until his health failed, and he was forced to relinquish his work. He died in December last year.

With him, dehydration was his life's work. He foresaw the endless possibilities for development along lines other than his own. His boundless enthusiasm carried him through many difficulties, not the least of which was to persuade those concerned of the commercial necessity of such an industry. As the pioneer of commercial dehydration in Australia, his inspiration and vision of what it could mean to the world in the future, is only now materialising and being understood.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Codling Moth Serious.

Reports from Pear growers in the Murray Valley show that the codling moth had proved to be a serious pest on Pears. To combat the pest, growers are increasingly adopting the use of white oil with the arsenical sprays.

Vice-Regal Visit to Irrigation Areas.

During mid-March His Excellency the Governor of S. Aust. (Sir Willoughby Norrie) accompanied by Lady Norrie, visited River Murray Irrigation areas—Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie and Morgan.

FRUIT FLY IN W.A.

Fig Trees Should be Examined.

THE NECESSITY for increased vigilance against the fruit-fly during the next few months was stressed in a recent report to the Under-Secretary for Agriculture (Mr. G. K. Baron-Hay), by the Government Entomologist (Mr. G. F. H. Jenkins).

He stated that in the late Summer there was usually an appreciable increase in the fruit-fly population and that only constant attention would prevent fruit from serious infestation. Amongst the most serious carriers of the fruit-fly at this time of the year are Figs, and it was not uncommon to find over-ripe Figs hanging on the trees or littering the ground and seething with fruit-fly maggots. To avoid this condition, Fig tree owners are advised to keep their trees constantly trimmed so that all the fruit could be easily picked.

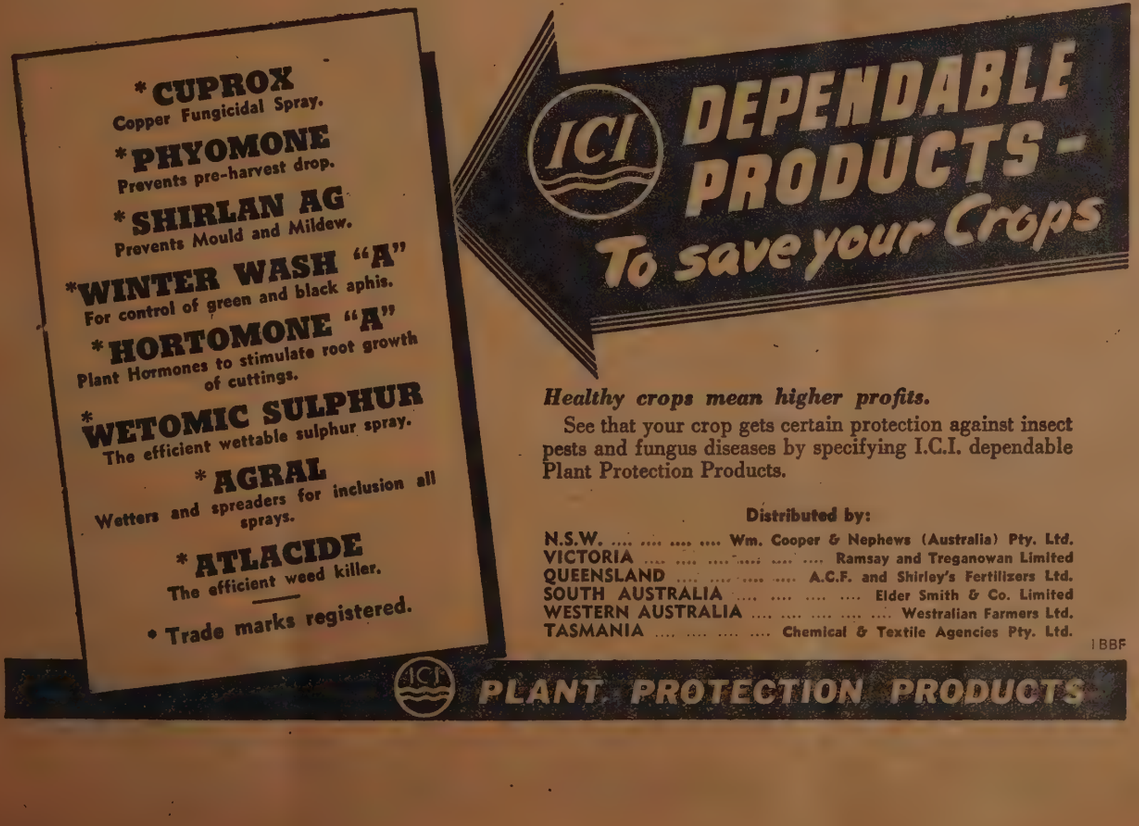
The baiting formula for the fruit fly is 1 oz. sodium fluosilicate, 2½ lb. of sugar, and 4 gallons of water. Full details for its application are printed on the back of every orchard registration certificate and leaflets are available from the Department of Agriculture. Where it is desired not to encroach on the family sugar ration for bait preparation, proprietary lines complying with departmental regulations are on the market.

CO-OPERATION IN CANADA.

CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES have been developed on a substantial scale in Canada. According to the "Economic Annalist," published by the Dominion Dept. of Agric. Credit unions number 1,780; dairy industry co-operatives, 446; food products, 518; petroleum and auto accessories, 500; feed, fertilizer, etc., 625; farmers' mutual insurance co-operatives, 400; coal, wood and building material, 413; clothing and home furnishings, 229; live stock, 225; fruits and vegetables, 161; grains and seed, 105; poultry, 194; machinery, 125; fishermen, 67; hospital care, 60; miscellaneous merchandising, 535; miscellaneous marketing, 14; honey, 6.

SOIL EROSION.

Soil erosion is a serious problem in most of the Australian States. Victorian producers, particularly in the Mallee areas do not agree with the Victorian Premier in the lighthearted manner in which he is dealing with this matter.


*CUPROX
Copper Fungicidal Spray.
*PHYOMONE
Prevents pre-harvest drop.
*SHIRLAN AG
Prevents Mould and Mildew.
*WINTER WASH "A"
For control of green and black aphis.
*HORTOMONE "A"
Plant Hormones to stimulate root growth of cuttings.
*WETOMIC SULPHUR
The efficient wettable sulphur spray.
*AGRAL
Wetters and spreaders for inclusion all sprays.
*ATLACIDE
The efficient weed killer.
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DEPENDABLE PRODUCTS -
To save your Crops
Healthy crops mean higher profits.
See that your crop gets certain protection against insect pests and fungus diseases by specifying I.C.I. dependable Plant Protection Products.
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DRIED FRUIT NOTES

DRIED FRUITS PUBLICITY

Report submitted by Chairman (Mr. Parker J. Moloney) on the Activities of the Publicity Committee During the Period July 25, 1944, and February 1, 1945.

Itineraries.

Mr. S. A. Rumble (Publicity Officer) had carried out a comprehensive itinerary covering the principal towns on alternative routes to and from Sydney. Mr. Rumble left Melbourne on June 5, 1944, and, after spending five weeks in Sydney, returned to Melbourne on September 16, 1944, via the Hume Highway.

During the following month, his services were utilized in the Metropolitan area, where he made attractive displays in selected grocers' shops and gave a number of screenings of the film of the industry at various schools.

From October 16, 1944, to November 4, 1944, Mr. Rumble was engaged in fulfilling a country itinerary throughout Gippsland.

During the period September 11, 1944, to November 18, 1944, Mr. F. W. Weston (publicity officer) conducted an extensive itinerary embracing the most important towns in the Western District of Victoria and proceeded to Adelaide via Mt. Gambier. On the return journey, he visited Bordertown, Kaniva, Nhill, Dimboola, Warracknabeal, St. Arnaud, Charlton and Bendigo. The result was satisfactory and (with the exception of Lexias in Victoria), no complaints were received from storekeepers regarding any shortage of vine fruits.

The increasing number of requests that are received daily at the office for dried fruits displays provide ample evidence that the Committee's work, both in suburban and country districts, is recognised by retailers as a valuable adjunct to their sales. It is reasonable to assume that this interest is a direct result of the high standard of the displays and, furthermore, these enquiries obviate, to some extent, the necessity for canvassing for windows.

Display Material.

Sixteen hundred showcards were despatched to the N.S.W. Board, Sydney, for Sydney trams. The total cost was £128 (plus tax).

Press Statement and Advertising Campaign.

Wartime Cookery Book.

It was arranged that Mr. Moloney should confer with Mr. R. H. Gilbert (Chairman, Commonwealth Export Control Board), and Mr. H. R. Jones (Co-operated Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd.), with a view to framing an appropriate advertisement and press statement calling attention to the increased releases of currants and sultanas and also to butter-saving recipes, as contained in the Wartime Cookery Bood. The Committee made a personal approach to the leading dailies in Victoria, N.S.W., S. Aust. and Queensland, and was successful in obtaining portion of the limited space available. It was pointed out that the Committee was a Government organisation connected with one of Australia's most important primary industries and that the public was deeply interested in the release of a commodity which had been subjected to strict rationing during the war period.

As a result, the press throughout the Commonwealth responded splendidly by publishing advertisements and prominent paragraphs and generally co-operating in every way.

Screen advertisements at the "Regent" and "Rex" Theatres, Adelaide, are used to convey the same message as in the press—viz., that dried currants and sultanas are in the shops again.

In addition, excellent publicity was given over the air during the news session in the leading capital cities to the press statement made by Mr. Moloney in regard to this matter. Judging by the numerous applications in all States for copies of the Wartime Cookery Book, the publicity thus secured has had a most beneficial effect, the demand for the book being so great that the Committee found it necessary to purchase an additional 100,000 copies.

It is gratifying to report that the total cost to the Committee by (virtue of its being a Government body) for the actual press advertising was £37/17/-. Amongst the other items of expenditure, the principal amount was £490/12/6 for the printing of the above-mentioned 100,000 copies of the cookery book.

It is considered that this concentrated advertising campaign played an important part in helping in the disposal of the record pack of 27,000 tons of dried fruits on the Commonwealth civilian market.

The usual practice of inserting appropriate advertisements in the principal grocery and bakery trade journals throughout the Commonwealth is being continued.

New Animated Cartoon.

The Committee has arranged for a new film to be made by the Department of Information to replace the Industrial Cartoon entitled the "New Babes in the Wood," which has outlived its appeal to school children. The new cartoon is both topical and instructive and should be popular at the various schools.

It is hoped that copies of the new film, together with new copies of the film of the Dried Fruits Industry, will be available for use by the Publicity Officers when they commence their 1945 itineraries.

DRIED FRUITS.

The Waikerie Co-operative Fruit Co. last season handled 2,874 tons of dried fruits and 154,630 bushels of citrus. At the last annual meeting, Messrs. J. C. Rowe and J. L. Smith were re-elected directors. The chairman is Mr. C. B. Williams.

A.D.F.A. Board of Management.

At recent meeting of the A.D.F.A. Board of Management, many important matters have received attention.

Western Australian growers are seeking a higher premium for Currants than has been allowed by the A.D.F.A. A new basis for payment has been devised and submitted to W.A.

Amendments to classifications of Lexias and Walthams at packing house door have been announced.

In order to conserve the Murray waters, the A.D.F.A. has taken up with the authorities the question of extended powers for the River Murray Commission to enable it to deal with problems of reafforestation, protection of water sheds and siltation of storages.

The question of allowance for depreciation of vineyards has been taken up with the Taxation authorities.

Regarding nurseries, the Federal Minister for Commerce and Agriculture recently stated in reply to A.D.F.A. representations that provision had been made for the release of men to ensure that adequate stocks could be maintained. It would be necessary for nurserymen to nominate personnel.

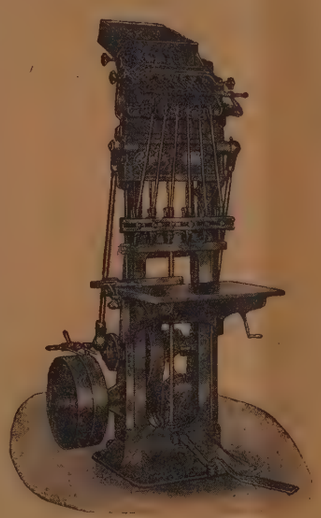
Nurseries had not been included in the priority group for fertilizer supplies. However, the Dept. of Agric. in N.S.W., Vic., and S. Aust., had made special provision for fertilizers for nurseries.

Mr. E. C. Orton, Senior Research Officer, Merbein Research Station, advised that research work would be conducted re prolonging the life of hessian on fruit-drying racks.

Publicity.

The Chairman of the A.D.F.A. Publicity Committee, Mr. Parker J. Moloney, recently gave valued information regarding the Association's publicity activities, including details of itineraries of travelling representatives, displays in shop windows, showing pictures to school children, tramway and other posters, screen advertisements, wartime cookery book, etc.

Mr. Moloney recommends that whereas wartime publicity expenditure has been substantially reduced, the need exists for pre-war sums to be placed in a reserve account for vigorous post-war campaign.



D. W. Bingham & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Complete Canning Plants

MEAT, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Modern Machinery of Guaranteed Workmanship and Performance.

COMPLETE BOX ASSEMBLING EQUIPMENT.

Nailing Machine.

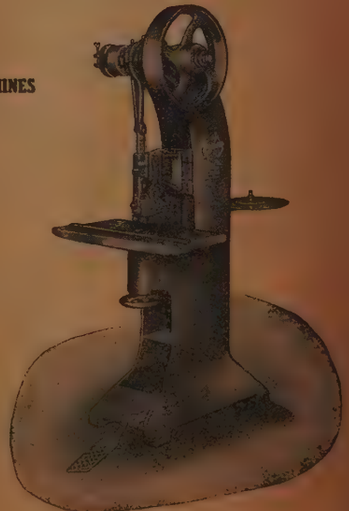
CHOOSE Bingham MACHINES

It Pays to be Modern

Machines Supplied on Official Priority Only.

224-8 NORMANBY ROAD, SOUTH MELBOURNE.
Telephones: MX 5238 (3 lines)

SYDNEY:
10 BARTLEY STREET, CHIPPENDALE.
Telephone: MX 1257.



Corrugated Fastener Cleating Machine.

FRUITGROWERS

FOR EXPERIENCED JUDGMENT ON FRUIT—
ASSURED RETURNS & EFFICIENT SERVICE

Consign to . . .

PATERSON & Co. LTD.

LICENSED AGENTS and leading Australian Fruit Exporters

MUNICIPAL FRUIT MARKETS SYDNEY

Address: 665 - 667 George Street, Haymarket

Box 262, Haymarket P.O. Phones: MA 6624, MA 6625.
Telegraphic Address: "Patersonia," Sydney.
Please Write for Rubber Stamp, Advice Notes, or Stencil.

DRIED FRUITS BOARD (S.A.).

At the meeting of the Sth. Aust. Dried Fruits Board on February 23, the annual contribution of 4/3 per ton for 1945 was agreed to. The Board also approved of the Consultative Committee's recommendation in regard to opening quotas for the year 1945, viz.: Currants and Sultanas each 15 per cent. and Lexias 25 per cent.

A memorandum by the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss), on the classification and definitions of Prunes, was considered at length and referred to the Consultative Committee, and the Secretary was directed to make available a copy to the N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board.

The Chairman (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) submitted a letter he had received from the Chairman of the Consultative Committee (Mr. Parker J. Moloney) forwarding copies of Mr. Moloney's letters to the Victorian Premier, stressing the representations of the State Boards in the matter of further planting of areas for the production of dried vine fruits, and the Secretary reported he had interviewed the State Minister of Agriculture on this subject.

In connection with the Door Classification Plan in the Renmark Area, nine (9) Classers' licenses were approved.

S.A. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A meeting of the South Australian Board was held on March 23.

Considerable attention was given to the revised pack estimate which disclosed a substantial reduction in the estimate taken earlier in the year. The Chairman (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) stated that arising from this he had been in communication with the Chairman of the Victorian Board (Mr. Parker J. Moloney) on the matter of allocations of the 1945 season's pack to the overseas market and for Commonwealth requirements, with a result that a special conference with representatives of the Export Board and the A.D.F.A. would be held in Melbourne on March 29, The Board's views were noted and the Chairman stated that he would attend the conference accompanied by the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss).

Further correspondence was submitted in regard to the proposals for the classification of Lexias, and the present position was noted.

In regard to investigation work, the annual report of the Investigation Officer (Inspector J. E. Noblet) was presented, and the Secretary was directed to arrange for an abridged copy of the report to be available for press publication.

Before the meeting was formally opened, the Chairman asked that the sympathy of the Board be recorded in the minutes of the death while on convoy duty in Russian waters of Lieut. W. W. Twiss, R.A.N., the only son of the Secretary.

Reference was also made to the tragic death on March 20 of Mr. F. McGlasson, who was a member of the Board in the years 1928 and 1929. The action of the Secretary in conveying the Board's condolences to Mrs. McGlasson and in arranging for a funeral wreath to be sent was approved.

W.A. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

Growers Get £3 per Ton Extra to Meet Heavier Production Costs.

Implications of Atlantic Charter.

THE annual report of the W.A. Dried Fruits Board for the year ended December 31, 1944, is just to hand.

The report states that W.A. pack for 1944 was as follows:—Currants 3,334 tons, Sultanas 634 tons, Lexias 69 tons, total 4,037 tons, as compared with 2,575 tons in 1943. (The Commonwealth production in 1944 was the all-time record of 103,706 tons, compared with 90,881 tons in 1943. The quantity reserved for Service and civilian needs in 1944 was 30,000 tons, leaving the balance for export mainly to U.K., Canada and N.Z.)

The prices paid by U.K. Government were:—Currants, £33/5/- per ton; Sultanas, £44 per ton (both from 1 crown upwards); Lexias, 4 and 5 crown only, £43/10/- per ton. These prices are £3 per ton more than those of 1943, because of increased production costs.

Publicity: Successful work by the Publicity Committee in aiming at an ever increasing Commonwealth demand for dried fruits calls for keenest appreciation.

As the Atlantic Charter and Mutual Anglo-U.S.A. **Aid Agreement** might seriously affect the tariff preference now enjoyed by Australian Dried Fruits on British and Dominion markets, letters were sent to State Premiers on the matter and promises had been given that earnest consideration would be given to the presenting of a supporting case for the dried fruits industry to the Commonwealth Government.

The W.A. Dried Fruits Act has been renewed until 1947.

The Board is composed of Messrs. H. S. Bickford (Government nominee), G. E. Stone, J. Duff, Jr., G. McD. Edgecombe and Chas. A. Sharman. The Secretary is Mr. E. H. Rosnan.

The growers' contribution in 1944 was 4/3 per ton in conformity with other State Boards.

DRIED FRUITS.

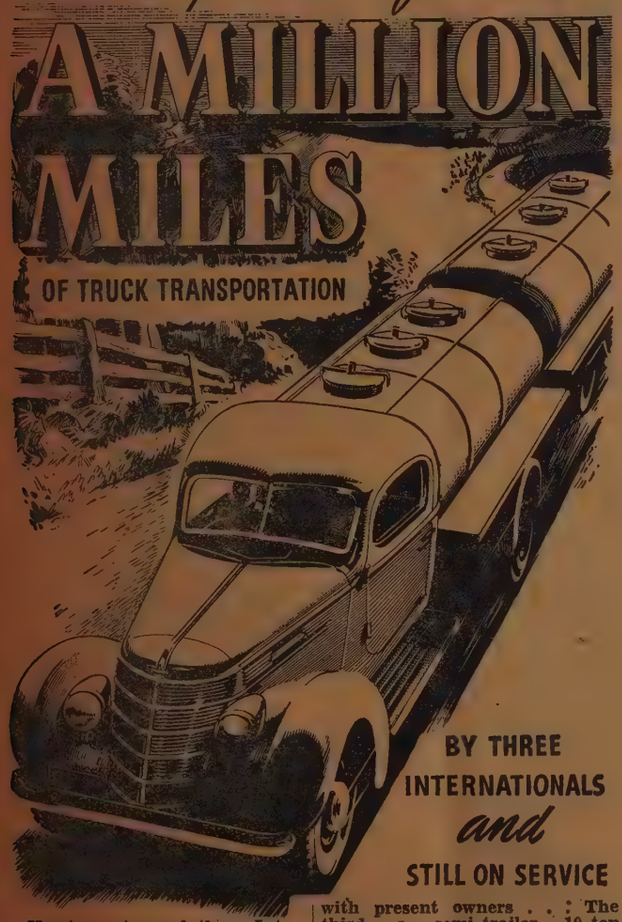
The Australian dried fruits crop is expected to be lighter than was at first anticipated. Dust and other storms reduced the expected yields in the Mildura and Swan Hill districts.

The Renmark (S.A.) and district Horticultural Adviser (Mr. C. G. Grasby) recently stated that River Murray yields were below expectations; Sultanas would apparently be about 35 per cent. and Currants 20 per cent. below last year record crop.

MT 35-16-1

Outstanding Truck Performance...

A MILLION MILES OF TRUCK TRANSPORTATION



BY THREE INTERNATIONALS *and* STILL ON SERVICE

Here's a story of three Internationals, purchased by Mr. G. R. Greaves, High St., St. Kilda in 1936-37. The first, with tank-trailer, working 24 hours a day hauling 10 tons of bulk petrol, covered 123,059 miles by Nov. 1937 and 400,000 by Aug. 1942 . . . . The second, purchased in 1937 for similar heavy-duty hauling, had then completed over 300,000. Since '42 both have been on continuous heavy-duty service with present owners . . . The third, a semi-trailer 10-ton tanker purchased in 1937, has registered 336,000 miles, and apart from usual service in running has required little other attention, and, the owner says it's "good for a million".

Outstanding truck performances like these will be remembered when the full range of Internationals — from the smart utilities to the big 6-wheelers — is again available.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD. (INC. IN VIC.)
BRANCHES IN ALL CAPITAL CITIES

INTERNATIONAL *Trucks*

You save Labour, Time and Fuel by using a

Sunshine Massey Harris Junior or Senior Tractor

With Power Lift Toolbar & Implements

2 & 3 FURROW PLOUGHS (see illustration above), Vineyard, Orchard or Field types, all cut 9-inch furrows. Vineyard type has patented swivelling head and lever, gives lateral movement up to 8 inches, regulates width of cut while working. There are other up-to-the-minute refinements as well.

Other attachment implements include the REVERSIBLE DISC HARROW, 8-disc and 10-disc sizes. Gangs can be set anywhere along the toolbar and to throw the earth inwards or outwards. It is fitted for pressure lubrication.

GRUBBER TINES AND FURROWERS are available. One, two or three tines can be used, fitted with 1¼-inch points for deep grubbing, or with 10-inch to 15-inch shovels with renewable points for furrowing

Another excellent attachment implement is the DELVER, with an overall width of 39 inches. This is unexcelled for the quick cutting of trenches and channels.

Ask the local agent or write us direct for a copy of the new catalogue describing and illustrating Sunshine Massey Harris Tractors.

So great is the demand for tractors and attachments that intending buyers are strongly advised to place their orders without delay.

H. V. McKay MASSEY HARRIS PTY. LTD.

Sunshine Harvester Works, Sunshine.

Calling All Fruitgrowers . . .

THE QUEENSLAND CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES LTD.
RECOMMENDS CONSIGNMENTS BEING SENT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AGENTS, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER:

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W. ARKELL & SONS	12	I. GUINSBERG	100	R. M. NEIL	105
A. S. BARR	19	WM. GUTTORMEEN	42	A. NICHOLSON	71
T. S. BOWDEN & CO.	103	JACKLYN & JACKLYN	36	W. J. E. PASCOE	54
A. J. CARTER	37	R. W. JOHNSON	85	H. PLINT	7
S. & W. CARTER	65	WM. JOHNSTON	64	W. E. POTTER	98
R. CASWELL	69	JUSTINS & FINLAYSON	41	ROBSONS PTY. LTD.	28
A. E. CHAVE	4	J. H. LEAVY	47	SALISBURY & WILLIAMS	53
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F. C. GESLER	93	MENDOZA & WRIGHT	40	E. E. WANLESS	88
L. FRANZEN & SON	68	L. J. McCAUSLAND	90	WHATLINGS PTY. LTD.	94
HEDLEY GEEVES PTY. LTD.	6	McCOWAN & HAMMOND	34	H. L. WOOL	74

The Chamber is prepared to receive Consignments in Bulk lots for distribution to any of these Agents. No charge will be made to the Grower for this service. Further particulars from the Secretary, E. B. P. BROOKS, Exchange Chambers, Turbot Street, Brisbane. Telegraphic Address: "Chamberfruit," B'ne.

McCORMICK-DEERING POWER AND EQUIPMENT
TO MEET THE URGENT DEMAND
FOR FOOD, AND STILL . . .

MORE FOOD

THE world is calling on Australia for vastly increased food supplies. To meet this demand, International Harvester's modern implement works at Geelong is now in full production of a wide range of the latest types of food-producing machines and implements. The range includes complete systems for potato, vegetable, and fruit culture as well as for dairy and mixed farming. There is also a wide variety of new equipment for all kinds of general farming, providing speedier production at low maintenance costs. Discuss your particular requirements with nearest International Harvester Agent. He will help choose the right equipment for your farm.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO. OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.
(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)
BRISBANE SYDNEY MELBOURNE ADELAIDE PERTH

A full range of the latest McCormick-Deering tractors is now available. A "permit to purchase" must be obtained. Our local agent will help you with your application.

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A complete system of equipment for every kind of farming

McCORMICK-DEERING
FARM EQUIPMENT

No-one else can do YOUR share
BUY VICTORY BONDS NOW

Agriculture on a World Basis

Stabilised Primary Production Essential for World Peace and Prosperity.

Important Conference Held at Sydney.

A DECISION of farreaching importance was made at Sydney early in February, when primary producer delegates from Great Britain, N.Z. and Australia met in conference.

Mr. R. C. Gibson, Chairman of the Australian Council of Primary Producers was in the chair. Voting delegates were present representing organised Dairy Farmers, Wheatgrowers, Wool Producers, Graziers and Flax Growers. Observer delegates were in attendance representing fruit and other industries.

The chairman said that the maintenance of a healthy and well balanced agriculture must be an essential of national and international policy. The problems of exporting and importing countries must be reconciled: this called for international co-operation.

Mr. Jas. Turner, President of the National Farmers' Union of Britain, said that a well planned and prosperous world agriculture, accompanied by equitable distribution of the world's primary products, was the foundation of world prosperity and peace.

Under Government purchase in Britain, the guaranteed market at a stable price of most commodities had enabled productive planning to effect an unprecedented increase of essential food production.

Britain's foreign exchange position demanded minimum expenditure abroad and maximum expansion of export trade. The extent to which home agriculture could be supplemented by food from overseas depended upon full productive employment of the industrial population: **this could mean even greater purchases of primary produce from overseas than in the uncertain pre-war period.** Stabilised world conditions were essential: Britain must become the focal point for world planning of distribution of primary products. There should be freedom from want and better nutrition the world over.

Speakers at the Conference congratulated Mr. Turner on his brilliant grasp of the situation as affecting a planned economy and international collaboration.

Resolutions were carried:

1. "This Conference of representatives of Farmers' Organisations from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia, agrees that National Organisations of Primary Producers is the essential prerequisite of international collaboration."

2. "Having agreed to the above principle, this Conference requests the National Farmers' Unions of the United Kingdom to convene an International Conference of National Primary Producers' Organisations, and further to prepare a Draft Constitution for an International Federation of National Primary Producers' Organisations."

PATENTS

George A. U'Ren
Patent Attorney
"OSBORNE HOUSE,"
397-399 Little Collins Street (adjoining Queen St.), MELBOURNE, C.1.

Queensland News and Notes

North Queensland.

The far northern floods of February were followed by a deluge in March which resulted in serious flooding of the areas affected in February, and of the main danger point — the Burdekin River.

All northern traffic by the direct route was held up as a result of the flooding and damage to the bridge. This is the third bridge over the Burdekin that has been badly damaged by floods. Northern trains, including the fruit trains, were diverted at Rockhampton, reaching Townsville via Winton—an extra trip of 400 miles. As this line was not specially built for heavy traffic, the absence of passing sidings means innumerable delays, and trains reached Townsville some 48 hours late. This is a terrific test for fruit and vegetables forwarded on the fruit specials, and growers, agents, northern retailers and Brisbane country order men will all be very heavy losers.

The record crop of Beans on the Atherton Tableland suffered seriously from the heavy rains. Mossman, a sugar cane centre north of Cairns, had over 15 inches in a single day, and centres south of Cairns had over 9 inches.

Central Queensland.

The citrus crop is exceptionally light and will not exceed 30 per cent. of a normal crop.

The heavy rains of North Queensland did not reach Central Queensland which suffered a drought extending over many months. By the middle of March relief rains had fallen, but there was still an absence of surface water, and more rain was required to ensure a good winter.

Vegetable growers in Central Queensland have had a very unhappy experience. During the period that Rockhampton was used as a training centre for U.S. troops there was an enormous demand for vegetables, to meet which established growers increased their areas, and quite a number of new growers entered the business. When the Americans moved out, the local market collapsed and actually faced a supply position in relation to population far worse than in any pre-war year. Indications are that there will be a big reduction in production this season, and some of the bona fide growers have given up their farms to engage in main roads work.

South Queensland.

During March the harvesting of the Pineapple crop was in full swing. The Pineapple Sectional Group Committee met the requirements of the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee by taking every possible step to ensure canneries receiving an adequate supply of fruit for processing to meet Service demands. The industry voluntarily agreed that each grower forwarding interstate should forward an equal quantity to factory, and only in a few isolated instances have there been any attempts at evasion.

Advice was received from the Prices Branch of an increase in the price of Smalls by £3 per ton, the same increase previously advised for the canning sizes of fruit. Unfortunately, at the same time market ceilings were decreased by ½d. per lb. for Queensland markets and ¾d. per lb. for the Southern States.

The Pineapple Sectional Group Committee is busy conducting experiments in the pre-cooling of Pineapples in Brisbane, despatch to Newcastle in iced waggons and cold storing in Newcastle. These experiments are designed to determine whether pre-cooling and refrigeration will enable the control of waterblister, a disease which causes exceptionally heavy losses to the fruit through breakdown in the summer months.

There was a major upset in the Banana industry when a serious outbreak of Bunchy Top was discovered in a plantation at Pimpama, adjoining the largest plantation in the State. So serious was the outbreak that immediate steps had to be taken by the Banana Industry Protection Board for the total eradication of an area of some 15 acres. This area was kerosened before the stools were dug out, the kerosening being designed to kill the aphis which is the agent carrying the virus disease.

Some years ago the industry was virtually wiped out in the South Coast section of the State and Northern N.S.W. through Bunchy Top, and the whole industry is anxiously watching developments.

Stanthorpe.

The application by the C.O.D, on behalf of the Deciduous Sectional Group Committee for permission to build a 20,000 case capacity cold store at Applethorpe was rejected by the Department for War Organisation of Industry, although supported by Food Control. Further efforts are being made to have this decision reviewed.

Tonnages loaded on the C.O.D. fruit train from Stanthorpe continued heavy, comparative figures to the end of January being:

	Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.
Season 1942/43:			
November	—	—	—
December	2,018	14	3
January	3,704	15	—
February	4,122	5	1
	9,845	15	—
Season 1943/44:			
November	566	14	2
December	4,389	19	1
January	6,089	12	—
February	6,806	—	3
	17,842	6	2
Season 1944/45:			
November	515	18	1
December	2,627	1	1
January	4,805	11	—
February	4,839	10	—
	12,788	—	2

Very heavy plantings were made of Beans and Tomatoes immediately following the heavy frost losses late the previous winter. As a result, the Brisbane market has been heavily over supplied, and low rates have

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been realised. The Tomato crop was also seriously affected during March with heavy rains in the Stanthorpe district, and a big percentage of the consignments arrived in Brisbane in a state quite unfit for the country order trade. On several occasions the C.O.D. endeavoured to clear stocks by offering the public a thousand cases of Tomatoes at 2/6 per case. These Tomatoes were weather affected and unsuitable for the retail trade, but represented good buying for the individual housewife, who readily responded.

Practically all vegetables except Lettuce and Beetroot were plentiful during the month. The industry fears that with the lessened Army buying which must inevitably result as operations proceed in the Pacific, Queensland production will be quite out of line with the demand, and that serious gluts may be encountered.

Extension of C.O.D. Activities to Newcastle.

At the end of February the C.O.D. opened a wholesale branch in Newcastle, where it purchased the old-established business of N. & A. Wholesale floors are now conducted by the C.O.D. in Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns.

At about the same time a retail branch was opened at Bowen, where the C.O.D. for many years has conducted a transport and merchandising branch.

Citrus News & Notes

Murray Valley Citrus Association.

AT THE RECENT annual conference of the Murray Citrus Growers' Association, Mr. A. P. Wishart, who presided over a representative attendance of delegates, said the N.Z. representative (Mr. C. Mueller) had rendered good service: Conference recommended continuance of N.Z. export on the same lines as in 1944.

The annual report referred to repercussions from the severe winter frosts resulting in a high proportion of frosted fruit. In volume the total harvest for the State (925,000 bushels, compared with the previous record of 985,000 bushels in 1940-41). Factory outlets were helpful in maintaining reasonable stability. A departure from previous policy was the introduction of stepped seasonal lifts in the ceiling prices for Valencias.

Mr. Geo. E. Kitchin Kerr gave a comprehensive review of Melbourne marketing conditions. Some well-known packs had suffered because of the inclusion of frosted fruit. The importance of organisation was seen in the fact that it was the control of S. Aust. and Mildura citrus which enabled growers representatives to play a definite part in general market stabilisation. The relationship with the Association agents and merchants had been very satisfactory. Export to N.Z. had been maintained on a satisfactory basis. The adherence to defined grading standards on Australian and export markets was a matter of major importance in effective marketing.

In answer to Mr. A. C. Fricker (Pyap) the Chairman said the post-war possibilities of the juice business would be closely watched. Mr. Fricker recommended that more small Oranges should be used for juice.

Mr. R. J. Spendiff (Berri) referred to waste of fruit in Adelaide because of transport in closed rail waggons, The Secretary said this matter had been taken up with the Railways Commissioners; there was a shortage of louvre vans, but more were under construction.

Citriculturist Needed.

At the instance of Messrs. J. R. Jemison (Ranco) and B. Murdoch (Waikerie), supported by Mr. E. R. Moss (Berri) it was decided to request the Government to appoint one of the Departmental cadets to be trained specially as a citriculturist.

The following were elected as a Committee of Management:—Messrs. A. P. Wishart (Chairman), K. Dunstant, C. B. Williams, C. Plush and F. E. Hepworth.

RENMARK CITRUS ASSOCIATION.

Menace of Red Scale.

At the annual meeting of the Renmark Citrus Association held early in March, the President, Mr. W. H. Kidd, said there had been an alarming increase in the spread of Red Scale. Spraying had been completed and fumigation was being carried on.

Mr. W. H. Eaton said that fumigation would commence early in March. Shortage of manpower was a problem. Fumigants would be available for treating sweat boxes.

The annual report stated that in the past year the quantities handled were:—Navels 76,000 cases, Valencias 24,000 cases, Commons 5,400, Lemons 1,200, Grapefruit 3,400. There had been an increase of 1,100 cases on the previous year's export. Factory quotas had been delivered for juice in accordance with the Citrus Fruit Juice Order.

Messrs. J. Scholfield, F. E. Hepworth, T. M. Price and H. A. Dolan were re-elected to the Committee.

Moorook-Kingston: There was a large attendance at the recent annual meeting of the Moorook-Kingston Branch of the River Murray Citrus Association, Mr. J. Swanbury presiding. A successful season was reported. Addresses were given by Messrs. G. E. K. Kerr (V.C.C.A.), A. P. Wishart, and J. J. Medley (Murray Citrus Association).

UPPER MURRAY GRAPE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Useful work on behalf of growers is being steadily performed by the U.M. Grape Growers' Association. The interests of wine and other grape growers are protected.

The Committee comprises Mr. Edmonds (President), Messrs. W. H. Eaton, O. Weste (Renmark), C. B. Williams and F. R. Francis (Waikerie), Garrett (Vice-Chairman), Brooke, Bulpitt, H. J. Davis, V. Shepherd, A. Penney, C. C. Warnecke, and Hatch, Secretary (Berri-Barmera).

Members of the Indian Trade Delegation recently stated that India was ready to take considerable quantities of Australian light wines.

Victorian Fruitgrowers Confer

Delegates Report on Sydney Conference.

Need for Representative Organisation.

AT a meeting of representatives of Victorian fruitgrowers' associations, Messrs. Frank Moore and V. A. H. Clark were appointed to attend the conference at Sydney on February 9 and 10 convened by the Primary Producers' Council of Australia.

Messrs. Moore and Clark reported to a subsequent meeting that the Sydney Conference had affirmed the necessity of effective producer organisation on a national basis to deal with post-war problems, particularly in Government treaties and obligations. The British delegation has stressed the fact that prior to the war, the English farmer has been in rather a parlous condition: at that time he was supplying only 30 per cent. of the needs of the population: since the war this has been stepped up to 80 per cent. They urged the creation of organisations of Empire producers in order to safeguard their interests in regard to Government treaties and other matters.

Resolutions had been passed establishing an Empire Council, and arranging for an Empire Conference in London in October next: represetation from Australia to be limited to producers' organisations which were Australian-wide in character.

Continuing, Messrs. Moore and Clark said their first duty was to organise Victorian growers so that they could speak with one voice, and later to merge into an Australian association; it was essential that Victorian growers should sink their differences and unite into an effective organisation.

It was proposed that the Victorian body should take the form of a loose-jointed council, consisting of representatives of existing organisations. It was felt that this method would be sufficient for the present and that subsequently a more solid organisation could develop. There was no thought of scrapping existing organisations.

A resolution was carried: "That this meeting of growers agrees to the formation of a Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council to be composed of representatives from the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores' Association, Northern Victorian Fruitgrowers' Association, Gippsland Fruit Marketing Association, Fruitgrowers' Defence League, Peninsula Orchardists' Central Association, Harcourt Growers' Associations, Southern Victorian Fruitgrowers' Association and any other unaffiliated association not already mentioned in this motion, to deal with matters vitally affecting the industry in the near future."

As delegates wish to consult their organisations it was decided to hold a further meeting on March 1.

The meeting was duly held on March 1, when a majority of the delegates stated the new Victorian Council would have the wholehearted support of their organisations. Representatives of the Defence League said this matter was of considerable importance to their organisation and, in accordance with their rules, the present proposals would have to be submitted to a full meeting of their members.

A resolution was passed later in the meeting: "That this meeting agrees to the formation of a Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council to be composed of recognised fruitgrowers' organisations to deal with matters vitally affecting the industry in the near future."

A discussion took place on the proposed constitution, and centred mainly on membership, voting powers, etc.

This matter is now to be discussed by growers' associations and a later meeting will be held for the purpose of appointing a committee to prepare a draft constitution.

TASMANIA.

The Port Huon Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Assn. Ltd., of Hobart, state they are having an exceedingly busy time in their food production programme under wartime conditions. Their Apple and other fruit processing is now on a very substantial scale. Pulpng factories are at Hobart and New Norfolk, cool stores at Port Huon, packing sheds at Hobart, Franklin, Geeveston, Huonville, Lymington, and other places. The general manager is Mr. J. P. Piggott.

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Vegetable Growing

CONTROL OF TUBER MOTH IN STORED SEED POTATOES.

Losses of varying severity are often caused by the attacks of the Potato tuber moth in stored seed Potatoes. This trouble occurs particularly in Potatoes which are dug comparatively early, say March or early April, and shed stored for early planting in the following year.

Infestation can be reduced by certain cultural methods. The growing crop should be well hilled up, to prevent as far as possible access to the tubers by the egg laying moth. At digging, the Potatoes should be picked up and bagged as soon as possible after they are out of the ground.

It is still a common practice of many growers to place the Potato haulms on the top of the filled bags to provide shade. This should not be done, as infested haulms are a potent source of infestation for the tubers.

Where in spite of the above precautions, it is obvious that the moth is present in unusually large numbers in harvested Potatoes it would be advisable to treat the tubers with ground magnesite dust before storage.

Tubers should be treated at the rate of 20 lb. per ton with magnesite that has been ground to pass a 200 mesh to the inch sieve. The Potatoes should be given a thorough covering. One satisfactory method is to use a rotating drum as is used for pickling seed, the Potatoes being placed in it and the required amount of dust sprinkled over them before rotating it. If they are then to be stored in bags, the insides of these should be first dusted with the magnesite.

An alternative method is to spread a bag of Potatoes over a smooth floor 6 ft. square, and sprinkle the required amount of dust over them, after which they are picked up with a wide-mouth shovel. The bag in which they are shovelled is given a good shaking after each 1rd filling. Two men can treat 10 bags per hour in this way.

This treatment will greatly reduce losses from rots which accompany the tunnelling of the grubs.

TOMATOES FOR SEED.

Healthy, High Yielding Plants Should be Selected.

Good seed is one of the first essentials for the production of a heavy yielding, high quality crop of Tomaties. Although many reputable seed merchants have first class seed for sale, there are a few unscrupulous dealers in Tomato seed who are not so particular regarding the quality of their seed. In consequence, many district growers prefer to select their own plants and extract seed for the next season's crop.

Plants for seed should be those which are carrying heavy crops of Tomatoes of a type considerably better than the average in the field. The outstanding plants should be vigorous and free from disease of any description, and carry a heavy crop well protected from the sun by foliage—the Tomatoes should be of a good even shape, and free from growth cracks and blossom end scars. A tough skin and a fairly thick wall is generally accompanied by a good carrying quality so essential for either market or factory Tomatoes.

Desirable plants should be marked clearly with a stake so that they can be avoided during normal picking operations and handled only for seed.

It is particularly important that these plants be rejected for seed saving purposes if they develop disease of any description during the season.

Bacterial Canker is the only disease which is definitely known to be transmitted with the seed, but in view of the probable existence of this disease in the Goulburn Valley, and the difficulty in distinguishing it from Fusarium Wilt, the wisest course is to reject all diseased plants as far as seed is concerned.

Much improvement in the type of Tomato grown in the district—particularly of the Burwood Wonder and South Australian Dwarf variety—could be effected by careful selection of seed.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture is at present testing many improved strains of these and other varieties, and, until such time as these are proved and released for general use, growers are advised to select plants with care.

FARM BOOKKEEPING.

In response to numerous requests from farmers for information on farm bookkeeping methods, the Victorian Department of Agriculture recently published a booklet outlining the main principles of bookkeeping as applied to farming transactions. Following a keen demand the first edition of the booklet quickly ran out of print. A new edition has just come off the press, however, and a copy of the booklet will be forwarded free of charge on application to the Director, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne, C.2.

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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (28/3/45).

Fruit.

Demand for Apples continued to be active. Choice, coloured dessert varieties, e.g., Jonathan and Delicious, realised up to the maximum of 27/- per bushel. Small quantities of local Winesaps, Rome Beauties and Granny Smiths also brought up to this level. Tasmanian supplies met a good request and rates were firm. Duke of Clarence and Cox's Orange Pippins sold to 18/-, Worcester Pearmains to 20/-, while Alfristons and Alexanders realised to 14/- per bush. Further consignments of Victorian and South Australian Jonathans were forward and for selected sizes of choice packs 27/- was obtained.

There was a steady inquiry for Packham's Triumph Pears from local and interstate sources, which included some Tasmanian packs. Best sizes sold to 20/- per bush., although the top rate for Tasmanian fruit was 18/-. Supplies of Victorian Williams were on offer; good quality green fruit cleared satisfactorily, but ripe lines had to be sold to the best advantage. Small consignments of Beurre Bosc and a few other varieties were available, best lines of Bosc Pears realising 16/- per bush.

Current prices were:—Apples: New South Wales—Jonathan 20/- to 27/-, Granny Smith 15/- to 25/-, specials 27/-, Delicious 27/-, London Pippin 12/- to 18/-, (very small sizes all varieties lower). Victorian and South Australian—Jonathan 16/- to 27/-; Tasmanian — Alfriston 11/- to 14/-, Jonathan 16/- to 25/-, Worcester Pearmain 14/- to 20/-, Delicious 27/-, Ribston Pippin 12/- to 18/-, Duke of Clarence 15/- to 18/-, Alexander 12/- to 14/-, Cox's Orange Pippin 14/- to 18/-. Pears: New South Wales—Williams 6/- to 12/-, few specials higher, Packham's Triumph 16/- to 20/-; Victorian—Williams 8/- to 14/-, few higher, Packham's Triumph 16/- to 20/-; Interstate—Beurre Bosc 12/- to 16/-, very small sizes lower; Oranges: Valencia 23/-, very small sizes lower; Lemons: Coastal — Standard — Counts 72 to 150—12/- to 25/-; plain grades lower; Quinces, 12/- to 16/- per bushel case. Peaches: Canning 4/- to 10/- (Victorian 10/- to 20/-, inferior lower, per bush. case); Plums, 6/- to 16/-, inferior lower; Grapes: Black Muscat 14/- to 25/-, inferior lower; White (other than Muscat), 7/- to 16/-; Cornichon, 8/- to 12/-; Passionfruit, 30/- to 50/-, inferior lower; Persimmons, 4/- to 10/-; Avocados, 12/- to 20/-, few higher, per half case; Bananas, 5½d. per lb., ripe and under-grade lots lower (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case); Pineapples, 21/3 per tropical case; Water Melons, 4/- to 6/- per cwt.; Cantaloupes, 6/- to 14/-; Honey Dews, 12/- to 15/- per crate.

Vegetables.

Peas, 6/- to 12/-, few early sales higher, inferior lower; Beans, 2/- to 6/-, occasional sales 7/-, inferior lower, per bushel; Cabbages, 2/- to 7/-, few specials to 10/-; Cauliflowers, 8/- to 20/-, occasional sales to 24/-, inferior lower; Marrows, 2/- to 4/-; Squash, 2/- to 3/- per dozen; Lettuce, 4/- to 6/-, few higher, per case; Carrots, 3/- to 6/- per dozen bunches, 14/- to 20/-, inferior lower, per cwt.; Parsnips, 4/- to 7/- per dozen bunches, 20/- to 24/-, washed to 28/-, inferior lower, per cwt.; Rhubarb, 4/- to 7/-; White Turnips, 1/6 to 3/-; Spinach, 2/- to 4/-, few higher; Celery (local), 6/- to 15/-; Eschalots, 3/- to 4/-; Mint, 4/- to 6/-; Parsley, 12/- to 18/-; Beetroot, 3/- to 7/- per doz. bunches; Tomatoes (local), 3/- to 10/-, few higher, (inland) 2/- to 7/-, (Queensland), 2/- to 5/- per half case, (Victorian) 4/- to 10/- per bush. case.; Potatoes: 1st Grade 7/10½; Onions (Victorian), brown 18/- to 21/-; Swedes, 9/- to 12/-; Pumpkins, 8/- to 14/- per cwt.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (4/4/45).

Vegetables were in light supply and steady demand in Queen Victoria wholesale market yesterday. Many Cabbages were affected by grubs, and good quality were scarce and a little dearer. Sales of fruit were slow. Grapes were in increased supply, but Bananas remained scarce. Quotations:

Fruit.

Bushel case, unless stated. Apples, eating 8/- to 18/-, few Delicious to 22/-, cooking 8/- to 16/-, few Granny Smith to 20/-; Figs, 10/- to 20/-; Grapes, Waltham and Muscatel, 15/- to 25/-, few to 28/-; Oranges, Valencias, 15/- to 23/6 (max.); Lemons, 22/- to 25/-; Raspberries, 1/- to 1/3 punnet; Strawberries, 1/6 to 3/- punnet; Peaches, 8/- to 16/-, few to 18/-; Pears, dessert 6/- to 10/-, Packham 10/- to 15/-; Pears, culinary 8/- to 12/-; Papaws, 22/- to 30/- dble case; Quinces, 5/- to 8/-; Bananas, green, 35/- to 45/- dble case, few to 50/-, max. 7½d. lb.; Pineapples, 18/- to 23/9 dble case (max.); Passionfruit, 20/- to 35/- half case; Cantaloupes, 6/- to 12/-.

Vegetables.

Beans, French, 38/- to 45/- 50 lb., few to 48/-; Beetroot, 8d. to 1/- doz. max. 17/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz.; Cabbages, 5/- to 8/-, doz., few to 9/-; Carrots, 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches; Cauliflowers, 12/- to 20/- doz.; Celery, 4/- to 8/- doz.; do., Adelaide, 18/- to 24/- dble case; Cucumbers, 2/- to 3/- doz.; Garlic, 1/- to 1/3 lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Lettuce, 5/- to 8/- case; Mint, 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs; Melons, Citron, 8/- to 18/- doz.; do., Water, 12/- to 24/- doz.; Onions, green 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs, Silver 2/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs; Parsnips, 3/- to 4/- doz. bnchs, max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- cwt. with tops; Peas, 20/- to 30/- 50 lb., few to 35/-; Potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag; Pumpkins, 8/- to 24/- doz. to 25/6 cwt.; Radish, 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs; Rhubarb 3/- to 4/- doz. bnchs; Spinach, 4/- to 6/- doz. bnchs; Tomatoes, 8/- to 15/- case, few to 18/-; Turnips, 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs; do., Swede, 10/- to 14/- bag; do., 2/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs; Vegetable Marrows, 3/- to 5/- doz.

VEGETABLE AND FRUIT BILL IN QUEENSLAND.

Introduction to Parliament in August.

The Queensland State Government intends to act on some at least of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Fruit and Vegetables, which submitted its final report to the Government last October.

This was indicated last week by the Agriculture Minister (Mr. Williams) who said that matters referred to by the commission probably would be the subject of a Bill, which he expected would be introduced early in the next session of Parliament in August.

Important recommendations of the commission included a reduction of the selling commission of agents; reducing the price of fruit and vegetables by lowering retailers' profit margin, to achieve which it was suggested that legislation might be introduced to license retail shops and limit their number.

Tighten Standards.

The commission urged that the Fruit and Vegetables Act and regulations should be reviewed to tighten up standards, with full enforcement of the law. It complained that the Agriculture Department's inspection and control with regard to the marketing of unsound, immature, or low quality fruit and vegetables had been perfunctory and of little value.

Amendments to the C.O.D. Act which the commission thought should be considered included formation of a vegetable group committee for control of all vegetables other than heavy vegetables; extension of power to include cold storing and processing; exclusion of C.O.D. from operation of the Farm Produce Agents' Act, and from the rule which prohibited an agent from buying his principal's commodity; power to carry on merchandising growers' requisites. — "Queensland Producer."

BUSINESS CHANGE.

The fruit merchanting business in Sydney Markets, hitherto conducted under the name of A. E. Spurway, is now known as Walter Woodcock and Son, Mr. W. Woodcock having become a member as from 1/7/1944.

Licensed Farm Produce Agent

F. CHILTON

Fruit Commission Agent

ESTABLISHED 1894

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Poultry Notes

Use of Calcium Carbonate for Fowls.

Requirements of Laying Hens.

In cases where egg shell texture is not satisfactory, improvement can often be effected by adding ground limestone or oyster shell flour to the mash. The quantity to be used depends upon whether the birds are receiving ordinary shell grit. If suitable shell grit is given to the birds and is eaten readily by them, advises Mr. E. Hadlington, Poultry Expert of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, in current notes, it should only be necessary to add to the mash about 1 or 2 per cent. of the items mentioned. If no shell grit or unsuitable grit is used, 3-4 per cent. of oyster shell flour or ground limestone would be required, this being about the normal intake of suitable shell grit.

In this connection the results of the experiments carried out some years ago at the Cornell University, U.S.A., to determine the calcium carbonate requirements of laying hens is of interest.

Pens of hens were fed different proportions of ground oyster shell, ranging from 2 to 8 per cent., while one pen was left without any at all and a control pen was given oyster shell grit instead of ground shell. The birds which did not receive calcium carbonate either in the form of shell grit or ground oyster shell were poor in health and condition, and laid an average of only 97 eggs for the year. Those fed 2 per cent. of ground oyster shell laid 132 eggs and showed better condition, whilst those given 4 per cent. were in the best condition and laid an average of 165 eggs. The birds receiving 8 per cent. ground oyster shell were not so good in condition and laid 154 eggs. The control pen receiving oyster shell only, laid an average of 168 eggs, and the birds were comparable in condition with those fed 4 per cent. ground oyster shell. The quantity of shell consumed by the control group was about equal to the amount of ground oyster shell consumed by the 4 per cent. group.

This quantity compares closely with the average amount consumed per bird in the Hawkesbury Agricultural College Egg-laying Competition.

FEEDING THE SOW.

When sows have weaned their litters they should be fed so as to improve their condition rapidly, and this rate of improvement should be continued during the early part of their pregnancy, and steadied down during the latter part so that the sows are in good condition, but not so fat as to make them inactive or clumsy by the end of the pregnancy.

Mr. L. A. Downey, Pig Expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, points out that to control the condition of sows as described above, it is necessary to hand feed dry sows instead of self-feeding them, and it is also necessary to have the dry sows graded into at least two lots, according to their condition.

The diet of "in pig" sows should contain some separated milk or meat meal, and some grain, and it is most desirable that they should have access to pasture, green food or lucerne hay or chaff. When the milk supply is limited the sows should have access to a trough containing a mixture of four parts ground limestone and one part salt.

Home Notes

PRESERVING LEMON JUICE.

To preserve Lemon juice, squeeze the juice from firm Lemons into a basin and then strain through fine muslin. Put the strained juice into small bottles, holding not more than two or three ounces apiece, filling them to within an inch of the top. Fill the remaining space with pure salad oil and cork the bottles tight. When the juice is required, the oil can be removed with a piece of cotton wool. Small bottles are better, as the juice can be used straight away.

You can prevent ivory or ivorine knife handles from turning yellow by rubbing them with a cut Lemon occasionally, washing them afterwards in warm soapy water.

Before tying down the jars of freshly made jam, immerse in vinegar the circular tissue which covers the jam, and you will never be troubled with mould.

TO REVIVE LINOLEUM.

To revive old linoleums, dissolve ¼ lb. resin and ¼ lb. shellac in a large bottle of methylated spirit and allow to stand all night. The resin and shellac should be well dissolved before the mixture is used. Clean linoleum well and let it dry thoroughly. Apply mixture with a soft cotton cloth, in small squares crossways. Put an old rubber glove on hand to protect it. This mixture gives old linoleums a new appearance. Do not polish after it has been applied, as it polishes itself.

SOME CLOTHES HINTS.

Keep clothes on their toes to save coupons. While they are new—that's the time to take clothes in hand to keep them looking well and make them last well. A few minutes "maintenance" work early will save hours of patching and renovating later.

Those who cannot get dress shields for woollen frocks can make their own and proof them by soaking in an alum solution.

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Secure buttons on children's clothing and woollies, by backing with a double band of material or tape.

Strengthen stockings at the heels, toes and where suspenders fasten, with bits of old stockings. It will double their wear.

To keep woollies in good shape, stitch a tape along shoulder and underarm seams before they are washed, and they won't sag.

WOOLLENS NEED CARE.

All woollens—coats, dresses, underwear, blankets, rugs—will last much longer if taken care of. Give all woollens a regular airing. Put them on a clothes hanger and let them hang for an hour or so out of doors. Then give them a good brushing or shaking. Look particularly underneath seams, cuffs, revers and turnups, and in side pockets for moth eggs. The grub eats the clothes, not the moth itself, so look out for the little eggs and the white grubs that follow.

Never store away soiled woollen material. The dirt acts like a magnet to moths.

Heat will kill moth eggs, so give clothes a good pressing from time to time. Use a damp cloth between the iron and the garment, and as each section is pressed, whip away the cloth, substitute a dry cloth, and repress to dry out the dampness caused by the first pressing.

CARE OF BRUSHES.

Brushes are hard to replace in wartime when new supplies are being diverted to the forces.

Hairbrushes, of course, need regular washing in warm (not hot) soapy water, with a dash of ammonia. Rinse in water of the same temperature, then very thoroughly rinse again in cold, to stiffen the bristles. Shake well to remove as much moisture as possible, and stand on end to dry slowly.

Tooth brushes will last longer if washed in cold water every time after use. Always stand with bristles upwards.

Clothes brushes and shoe brushes, too, need washing now and then. Use the same method as for hair brushes.

Greasy household brushes call for soda as well as soap in the washing water. Put them away standing on end, not resting flat either on their backs or their bristles.

— SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS —

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the

VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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Science in Horticulture

The Use of Cyanide in Controlling the Root Form of the Woolly Apple Aphid.

SODIUM CYANIDE was dissolved in water made alkaline by the addition of potassium hydroxide and applied to the soil at the base of two-year-old Apple trees. The alkalinity ensured that the hydrocyanic gas was not given off until the acid in the soil reacted with the alkali in the soil solution. Although in these experiments it was not necessary, as much as 5 grams of potassium hydroxide per tree can be used without affecting the controlling power of the cyanide.

Injury occurred when more than 1 gram of sodium cyanide was applied to the soil per tree or when 1 gram was used in less than 1 quart of water. Carbon bisulphide at the strongest solution used, 1-800 2 pints, was safe but gave poor control. The minimum strength of dichlorethyl ether, 1-800 2 pints, injured the rootlets.

In practical work it is suggested that within the limits of safety the quantity of cyanide needed will depend on the moisture content of the soil and the degree of infestation, e.g., 0.5 gram of cyanide per tree in 1 pint of water gave good control in 1940. Enough liquid must be used to reach the lowest aphids which may be 10 inches below the ground.—C. F. Smith, Jour Econ. Ent.

Variety Tests of Strawberries.

OF 76 STRAWBERRY VARIETIES and unnamed strains tested, 12 and 4 respectively were morphologically pistillate; all other varieties were morphologically hermaphrodites. The pistillate varieties were found to be not uniformly fertile if cross-pollinated.

Also hermaphroditic varieties with partial pollen sterility need pollinators; in the same occasionally, when a highly self-fertile variety has set poorly, cropping could be considerably increased by cross-pollination. The suitability of the pollen for cross-pollination differed according to the variety. Wind pollination occurs only within very short range. The part played by bees in the pollination of Strawberries could not be ascertained.

It was not always possible to decide whether a variety was highly, moderately or only slightly self-fertile. Nutritional conditions appeared to influence pollen degeneration and to cause considerable fluctuations in setting. Further investigations into the effect on yield of varying degrees of self-fertility are necessary. It is also of importance to find out whether wind or insect pollination is usual in Strawberries.

Susceptibility to leaf spot varied, Madame Moutot being resistant. Resistance to red spider was strongest in hard-leaved varieties such as Madame Moutot. No varietal differences in frost hardiness could be observed with the exception that early varieties opening their flowers sooner were damaged more severely than late varieties.—G. Herold (German).

Five New Raspberry Seedlings.

A DETAILED ACCOUNT is given of 5 new Raspberry varieties bred at East Malling, England, in 1931, one parent in every case being Preussen, the others being Lloyd George, an earlier seedling derived from Lloyd George x Pyne's Royal and Baumforth Seedling A. They range from early mid-season to late mid-season. Their fruits are as large as those of any named varieties. In colour they vary but none become excessively dark when fully ripe. They are firm and easy to plug. Flavour ranges from fair to very good. Four are known to be tolerant carriers of mosaic. One is rather susceptible to cane blight under certain conditions. They are now being multiplied for further propagation and trial in Raspberry districts. —N. H. Grubb, E. Malling Res. Station.

PRODUCTION OF EARLIER VEGETABLES IN THE OPEN. (Russian).

THREE METHODS OF HASTENING the growth of vegetables in the open are described. 1. They are planted in pots made of peat and turfy soil, which are neutralised by the addition of lime in the summer, and left to weather. To the mixture artificial fertilisers are added to suit the particular crops to be grown, the pots are moulded, filled with compost and receive the seed or plants. 2. The early sown seed or plants are protected by hoods of paraffin wax paper, cut into octagons, 50 to 60 cm. in diameter, and folded. They are removed when frosts are over. Glass may also be used for the purpose. 3. Hotbed cultivation, used fresh dung or rotting vegetable refuse and frame lights, with mulch paper or paraffin wax paper for protection. By all three methods it has been found possible to get vegetables a month or more earlier than by ordinary methods.—A. S. Zasypkin, Sady i Ogorody.

EELWORM OF POTATOES.

In some Potato-growing districts, considerable damage is caused to Potatoes by eelworm. These eelworms, which, incidentally, are not related to earthworms, cause large nodular swellings on the surface of the tubers. If the attack is severe, the tubers will be unfit for sale.

Mr. C. R. Millikan, Plant Pathologist of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, points out that Potatoes may become infected by growing the crop on infested soil, or by planting infected seed.

Therefore, to control the disease, Potatoes should be planted into uninfected soil and clean seed must be used. No seed showing any sign of eelworm nodules should be used for seed.

In addition to the use of clean seed, crop rotation is important as a means of reducing damage, as it has been observed that the practice of growing Potatoes too frequently on the same area favours serious eelworm damage.

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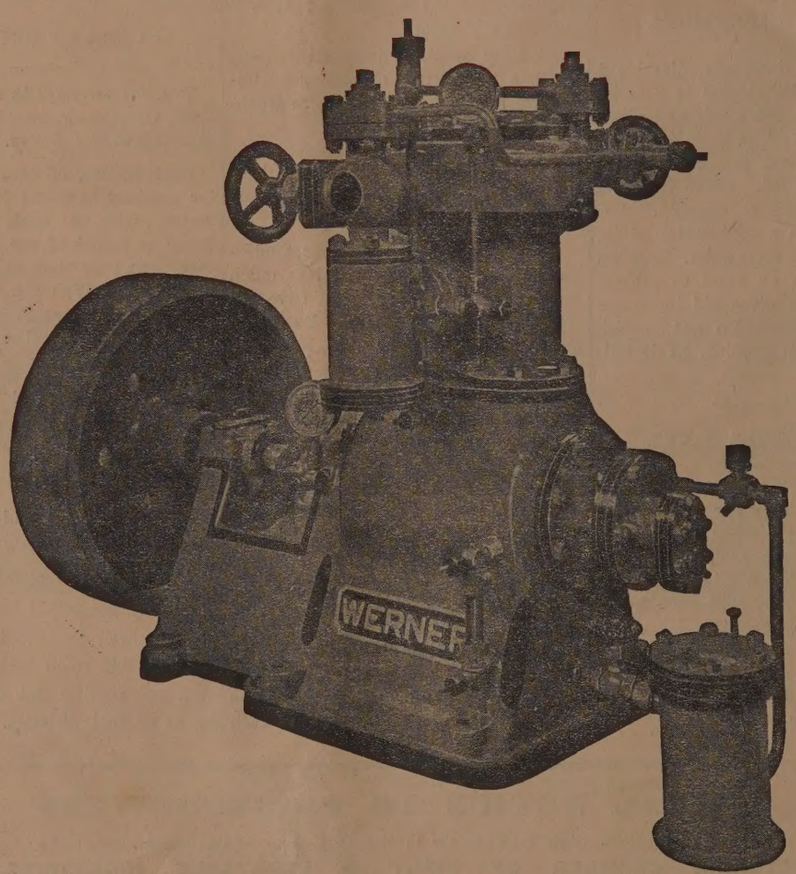

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